

Spring, 2023



ROSA AMERICANA, LTD.

FIXED PRICE LIST #24

*A special price list offering a wide range of
AFFORDABLE colonial coins –
nothing on this list priced over \$500!*



“You Do Colonial Coins?... Those are EXPENSIVE!”

Those exact words were uttered to me at a recent coin show, and I had to tell the speaker that his statement wasn't necessarily true. While we do see record prices being paid for the choicest and rarest colonials in this current heated market, one of the wonderful things about the series is that there are numerous types and individual die varieties that can be had at affordable prices – under \$500, many for under half that amount, and even for under \$100 each. I decided to test that theory on this price list, with nothing on it costing more than \$500, and most coins actually well under that price. I was surprised at the wide array of types and varieties, including major types that could be offered in collectible grades.

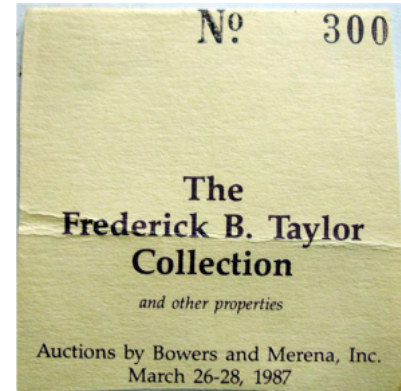
Of course, one's expectations need to be realistic at these prices. The days are long gone when you could pick up a circulated piece of Massachusetts silver or an EF Fugio copper at \$500 (and don't we all wish we had bought a lot more of them when we could?). No, these coins do not look like they did when they fell from the coining presses 250 or so years ago. But to my eyes at least, that is part of their charm. These were not specialty pieces made for the cabinets of 18th century connoisseurs, but rather coins that were made to circulate. They were coins that were needed in the colonies and the early United States – sometimes desperately so. They were the workhorses of the various colonies and states, allowing people to get paid and commerce to be done. These coppers bought food for the table, clothes for the kids, and a newspaper to read (by candlelight which you also purchased with a copper) to keep you up-to-date with the goings on in the wider world. While King George III may have never used a coin to pay for anything in his life – and certainly not a copper coin! – that was not the case for leaders in North America. Did that edge bump on a Massachusetts copper occur when George Washington dropped it as he paid for his drink at the Green Dragon tavern in Boston? Was that ancient scratch on a New Jersey copper the mark of some contemporary testing to make sure the coin was copper and not some brassy cast counterfeit? Was that wear on the Fugio partially from the hands of Ben Franklin, who some say came up with the design, and who must have chuckled whenever he received one of them in change? We will never know of course – but the possibility is there, making these coins tangible links to our nation's early history that we can still actually hold in the palms of our hands. The highest grade colonials are gorgeous things to look at – and they certainly have a story of their own to tell, having been specifically saved and cared for across centuries – but they lack some of that immediacy to the colonial period that circulated coins do.

Read on for a selection of collector grade colonial and state coinage, knowing that your satisfaction is guaranteed. The photos of each coin are the exact ones being offered, and though it is seldom used you have a no-questions-asked return period of two weeks after you receive any coin to return it for a full refund. I'm a collector as well as a dealer, and I know that a coin has to be “just right” to have a place in the collections we form – even inexpensive coins. There is also a nice group of “fun stuff” at the end of this list, including a selection of contemporary counterfeit British and Irish coppers from the Clem Schettino collection.

Thank you again for your business and friendship. Thanks to that I have been able to offer many thousands of colonial coins since my first price list, way back in 1989 – and hope to continue doing so for years to come. Best wishes to you all for a happy, healthy, joyous 2023.

– Jeff Rock –

A HIGH RARITY-6 ST. PATRICK FARTHING
From the Taylor Collection, with a bold brass splash
Sold for the Clem Schettino Family



1. Undated (ca. 1652-1674) St. Patrick Farthing. Martin 1c.16-Ca.7, W-11500. High Rarity-6. Copper. Nothing Below King. Very Good, obverse details closer to Fine, reverse weaker. The first few obverse letters and final reverse one are weak, the rest mostly strong, and with sufficient design detail to securely attribute the variety. Light brown surfaces with darker mottling around the peripheries, the surfaces lightly rough as expected for a well-used coin, but the brass splasher is a nice, bright golden color. A very rare variety, we have only been able to locate two auction records, including this exact coin which was in Stack's Bowers November 2019 C4 auction, and a slightly sharper but rougher example offered by the same firm a year prior. This example hails from the Frederick B. Taylor collection, sold in a landmark 1987 auction that contained incredible state coinages by die variety, along with other selected issues – indeed, this catalogue was carried around by those of us active in the late 1980s for well over a dozen years, as it was the one-volume reference that had more photos of die varieties available than any other auction to that time. The original Taylor lot ticket accompanies this coin, a rare survivor from an era when many such things were tossed away. We are offering it here on behalf of the Clem Schettino family, and the coin comes in Clem's distinct handwritten envelope with his name and address stamp on the back flap. An affordable example of this popular type (which now has a first-rate reference book written by the late Syd Martin), with good color, a bold splasher, and an excellent provenance. Five or six years ago, when Syd was researching his book, this coin may have brought \$1,000. Today it is only.....\$300

A Slabbed American Plantations Token



2. Undated (ca. 1828) American Plantations Token, or 1/24 Part Real. Restrike. Newman 4-E, W-1155. Rarity-5. PCGS Graded Fine Details—Damage, much of the detail closer to the Very Fine level, though a piece that clearly saw some time in circulation – despite being a restrike made 140 years or so after the original and made for sale to collectors of the era! London coin dealer Matthew Young purchased some of the original dies and edging devices for the Plantations token, selling them to the British Museum – save for two obverse and two reverse dies which he used to create restrikes for sale to his customers, these being Newman 4-D, 4-E and 5-D. There has been much confusion over what varieties are restrikes, and often the same auction firms have varying answers (one claiming only a single variety as restrikes in one listing, two in another listing and three in a third). Die variety collecting was almost unheard of in 1828 when Young produced these restrikes, and most collectors concentrated on major type coins – even in series like the Conder tokens, where it would be over a half century before the Atkins book began to detail die varieties in some depth. For this reason it is unlikely Young made three varieties to sell as actual varieties, and rather he used the dies as needed, perhaps striking some at different times to fill orders when his stock ran low. The Newman 4-D is an extraordinary rarity, with just two specimens currently known, a mystery since the 4-E and 5-D varieties are not rare. Looking at the Stack's Bowers archives the majority of examples of the 4-E variety are in AU and Unc grades (though often very rough from tinpest), but there are a number of circulated specimens of the variety out there, including this one, which should at least suggest some restrikes did enter circulation. One can only wonder at what denomination such a thing would have circulated at though – made of a metal not current in circulation at the time, valued in Spanish coin, and bearing the portrait of a king long dead! The flashy restrike Uncs do look different than the (extremely rare) high grade originals, but this well-used piece has the same look as circulated originals that we have handled. This small series still has some mystery left to unravel! Regardless, this is a well-detailed example for the grade, with most of the legends and design detail sharp. A number of marks from circulation can be seen, mostly on the obverse, as well as some rim ticks, but there is no trace of the tinpest that often plagues this coinage, even on high grade restrikes. Certainly affordable at just\$350

The Very Scarce D: G: REX Rosa Americana Halfpenny *PCGS Certified Genuine*



3. 1722 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 2.1-B.1, W-1218. Rarity-4. D.G: REX / ROSA AMERI. UTILI DULCI. PCGS graded Fine Details. Actually better than the grade on the slab, the obverse is a high-end Fine, the reverse fully of the VF level, showing all the seeds in the rose, detail which wears down dramatically in Fine and lower grade coins. Well struck, the legends are full on both sides, as is the date, with the all-important D: G: REX fully visible. Attractive medium brown, the planchet with light roughness on either side that doesn't rise to the level of environmental damage in our eyes – and, indeed, we have seen rougher examples make it into holders with straight grades, so this may be one well worth resubmitting. Other than the light roughness there is no appreciable damage from circulation. Called a pattern or a prototype by Walter Breen, there are far more known of this variety than one would expect for a pattern issue, though it is certainly a distinct obverse type in the series – and there was a different die with the same legend also used in the Hibernia series. The halfpenny denomination is the rarest in the Rosa Americana series, and this unusual legend style is represented by this single variety, meaning it is in demand by both variety and type collectors. Rated by Syd Martin as a Rarity-4, we think it is actually slightly rarer than that, on the order of a full R-5 – one problem with such naked-eye type coins is that they are nearly always catalogued as such, which means they are very rarely sold unattributed, and most rarity ratings factor in a set number of pieces that will be found unattributed (i.e. if a researcher can account for 20 examples of a given variety they usually assume an equal number are out there unattributed, and the rarity rating given would be on 40 probably examples, not the 20 actually known). In any event, this is a pleasing enough example, with good color and strong detail. In the slab, priced at just.....\$350

A Cleanly Circulated, very scarce variety 1722 Rosa Americana Penny



4. 1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.15-C.5, W-1264. Rarity-5. Very Fine/Fine, the reverse just a shade weaker than the obverse. A well-struck example of a rarer variety in the series, the legends and date are especially bold on either side. The King's bust shows some facial features, the hair mostly flat, as are the central petals of the reverse rose. There is a V-shaped edge cut at the right obverse which looks like a planchet flaw at first glance, and a few ancient scratches on either side, which have toned down to the surface color and are not that disturbing. Clean and evenly worn, with the expected level of problems for a coin that spent much time in circulation in the North American colonies. A rare variety, both the Stack's Bowers and Heritage auction archives show just two examples each, and the rarity of the variety may well be underrated. This piece with full legends and date is just.....\$225

An Inexpensive 1723 Crowned Rose Halfpenny



5. 1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.31-F.1, W-1282. Rarity-4. Very Fine, well struck, with all the design detail expected of the grade, including strong facial detail on the obverse bust and all the seeds within the crowned rose on the reverse. The legends and date are all strong on either side. Medium brown, the coin with assorted marks from time spent in circulation, as well as a trace of light roughness in the right obverse field. The rims show some light planchet flaws that were there prestrike, as well as a couple marks from post-strike circulation. A well detailed of this popular type, and inexpensive at.....\$175

***A Nice VF Hibernia Farthing from the Norweb Collection –
For Under 100 Bucks!***



6. 1723 Hibernia Farthing. Martin 3.13-Bc.11, Eleven Harpstrings, W-12350. Rarity-5. Very Fine, the reverse a bit weaker than that grade level at the absolute center – as specifically mentioned by Syd Martin in his reference work on the series, which he calls “massive failure in lower body of effigy.” The legends and date are all bold, the obverse portrait of King George I showing strong detail for the grade in the hair and face, and the reverse harp has all of the strings bold. Attractive medium brown, the surfaces hard to the eye, a glass will pick up the most trivial of light roughness as often seen on the coinage, but overall free of marks or defects from its time spent in circulation. The Hibernia farthing series is a relatively compact one, with just over 50 die varieties known, and leaving aside the pattern and silver issues, most are going to be very affordable in middle-circulated grades and not too horribly expensive in AU and Unc condition, where many of the varieties can be had for under \$500 (at least until one gets to the slabbed MS67.1248 RD star PQ asterisk exclamation point grade level). The farthings, with far fewer varieties than the halfpennies, are easier to attribute as well, with the 1723 issues broken down into smaller groups based on the number of harpstrings on the reverse. This example was in the famous Norweb collection, one of the groups examined by the late Bob Vlack when he first started working on a reference work for the series in the 1960s – something abandoned due to lack of photographs and the difficulty of attributing these coins without them, but which did serve as a starting point for Syd Martin to finally accomplish the task in 2007. While there is no Norweb lot ticket with the coin, it was in the Norweb III sale as part of a group lot of Hibernias, Lot 3457. It was purchased there by noted dealer Larry Briggs, whose distinct handwritten ticket accompanies the coin, giving provenance information. We later sold it on our 2005 price list (a few years before the Martin reference came out, so unattributed there except for Breen number). It brought \$129 over 17 years ago, today it can be yours for just.....\$90

Many lower value items were sold in group lots in the Norweb sale, and the provenance of coins in those groups was often soon lost, as there would only be a single lot ticket that could remain with a coin. This one was purchased by Larry Briggs at the auction itself, and he noted the provenance on the ticket; it was on one of our earlier price lists, also with the provenance noted. It's a shame when that information gets lost, regardless of the value of the coin.

A RARITY-7 HIBERNIA HALFPENNY VARIETY FOR JUST \$100!

“Large Bust” type, only use of this obverse die

NONE of this variety found in the Stack’s Bowers or Heritage Archives!



7. 1723 Hibernia Halfpenny. Martin 3.5-Fb.1, W-12690. Rarity-7. Fine overall, some details closer to the VF level, surface quality not up to the full VF grade. Well struck, the legends and date are full on either side. The planchet has some scattered roughness across both sides, as well as some pockmarks in the reverse field, suggestive of some time perhaps spent underground. Despite that, the coin shows no real marks from actual circulation such as nicks or scratches. Normally such a coin would not be plate-worthy, but this is a special variety. Syd Martin calls this the Large Bust obverse type, and this particular obverse die was used only with this reverse – and seemingly few were struck; he gave it a full Rarity-7 rating, meaning under a dozen examples are thought to be known in all grades combined. This is certainly borne out by a search through auction records – neither the Stack’s Bowers nor Heritage archives show a single example of the variety sold there, in any grade! Indeed, in all of the museum and private collections that Martin was able to examine he recorded just two examples of this variety – both in his own personal collection, a very telling comment on rarity. There are few series in the colonial realm where an R-7 variety would be remotely affordable – four, five, and even six-figure price tags would be the norm. But the Hibernia series offers collectors the chance to obtain very rare varieties for little more than type-coin money – a situation that will likely not last, especially with Syd Martin’s excellent reference work on the series making them (finally!) easy to attribute. I strongly suspect people will look back at this era the same way state coinage collectors look back at the 1987 Taylor sale and think “wow, those were CHEAP! Why didn’t I buy more??” Needless to say, you’ll likely have to wait until Syd’s Hibernia coins start being sold to get another chance at the variety, and those two will certainly cost more than.....\$100

A Neat 1724 Hibernia Halfpenny
This obverse die used on both 1723 and 1724-dated coins!



8. 1724 Wood's Hibernia Halfpenny. Martin 4.51-K.4, W-13690. Rarity-2. Nearly Very Fine, probably fully of that grade level as most of the 1724-dated varieties seem to strike up weakly on the reverse, especially at the lower half. This example has full legends on either side, the date bold, and with VF-level features in the King's face and hair. The reverse figure shows some drapery detail, with weakness at her center, her feet, and the left part of the exergue line; the harpstrings are all visible, though some are weaker than others. Medium brown, with the legends and devices a lighter shade that has some pink hues, so there is the possibility the coin was cleaned in the past, but if so it has retoned and looks good. Minimal marks from circulation, and overall a pleasing, circulated example of this final year of issue for the Hibernia copper coinage. Until Syd Martin's book on the series collectors speculated that there would be some biennial die pairings – obverse dies that were used in more than one year – and such was the case. This obverse was first used with a 1723-dated reverse (Martin Gb.11), perhaps a variety coined late in that year and, as the obverse die is not dated and was still in good working order, was then paired with a 1724-dated reverse when that year's coinage began. While the obverse die was mated to just two reverses, this reverse die was only used with this obverse – this kind of fascinating detail would have remained unknown without Syd Martin's groundbreaking research. If you don't have the book, it is well worth getting even if you don't intend to collect the Hibernia series, just as an example of what can be done, even for a series that was considered impossible to work on for over 250 years!\$100

A Very Sharp 1760 Voce Populi Halfpenny



9. 1760 Voce Populi Halfpenny. Nelson-9, W-13820. Choice Very Fine. This example was last sold in the February, 1994 Coin Galleries sale, where it appeared as lot 1721 and was described as: "Stern, or Mature Bust, deeply impressed with the feeling of an ancient bronze. 91.8 grains. Bold date. A pleasing example of this copper made by military outfitter Roche of South King Street, Dublin. Strong Very Fine." The description relied heavily on the writings of Walter Breen, who often assigned coinages to people without much evidence. While Roche could certainly be a possible coiner, so could many others, and today the series has been re-shrouded in mystery – perhaps with more archives available digitally answers may be found. What is not questionable is that this is a lovely, very well-struck example of this popular type, and one that is just a shade off the full EF grade level (though we have seen lesser examples sold or even slabbed as such in the past). There is trivial light roughness on the surfaces which was likely there before the coin was actually struck – it is possible that some of the planchets used for the series were actually cast, but even if cut out from rolled sheet copper, the coiner(s) seem not to have had much experience in the process. The legends and date are bold on either side, the very top of the H and base of the 1 in the date slightly off the planchet as centered, and as the reverse die was larger than the obverse one, there is almost always a bit of something that is off the planchet on that side. Bold detail in the stern face of the obverse bust – who it is supposed to represent is still a mystery – and the reverse figure with the very short branch arm and overly muscular pole arm is bold, as is the harp and the two rosettes after the legend. Quite attractive, with no problems of note other than the light wear. Only.....\$325

Accompanied by the original lot ticket from the 1994 Coin Galleries sale mentioned, as well as a cut-out of the lot description from the catalogue.

An Affordable 1773 No Period Virginia Halfpenny



10. 1773 Virginia Halfpenny. Newman 4-G, W-1460. Rarity-3. No Period After GEORGIVS, 7 Harp Strings. Fine/Very Fine, the obverse weaker than the reverse with what appears to be die failure rather than excessive wear on one side. The legends are full, the very tops of REX weaker than the rest, but the rest of those letters visible, the others all sharp, as is the date at the top of the reverse. The King's bust is fully outlined, with some facial detail – though a bit more is needed for a full VF grade. The reverse is much sharper, with the shield bold, including all the iconography in its four quadrants, and the crown above shows all the jewels upon its surface. Olive brown, the surfaces with a very light roughness that just softens the detail a bit but doesn't really detract, and there are few marks of note from actual circulation. The No Period obverse types are fewer in number and scarcer overall than the With Period type. A pleasing, well-detail example of a popular type coin, and one that has seen a marked increase in collector interest (and, thus, in price) after the publication of Roger A. Moore's wonderful new reference work on the series – this one of the many books published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4), which has done much to advance our understanding of the hobby, as well as get even more new collectors interested in this truly fascinating field.....\$150

A Scarce 1785 Nova Constellatio



11. 1785 Nova Constellatio Copper. Crosby 4-D, W-1910. High Rarity-4. Fine overall, some details a tad sharper, some a bit weaker, as often found. The legends are full on either side, a few letters weaker than their neighbors, but most of them strong for the grade, as is the date at the base of the reverse. The all-seeing eye at the center obverse shows some detail in the lid, while the script US at the center reverse is weaker than the rest, but visible. Medium olive brown, the surfaces with the expected light marks from a long life in circulation, including a couple tiny rim ticks, some light roughness, and a few contact marks – none serious for the grade. For decades the Nova Constellatio series was not that popular with collectors and despite only having eight die varieties for the 1783-5 issues (the 1786 being an extreme rarity), many collectors would have either a date set or a slightly larger set with the two collectible dates and both blunt and pointed ray types. This seems to have changed with the publication of Q. David Bowers wonderful 2018 book *The Copper Coins of Vermont, and Interrelated Issues 1783-1788*, which included a detailed look at the Nova Constellatio series. In a very short period demand for this coinage skyrocketed, and with a relatively small supply of most varieties available, prices rose, more than doubling in just a couple years for every grade level. While we used to be able to stock a dozen or so Nova Constellatios at any given time, it has become difficult to find more than an example or two a year that we think offer good value for the money. This well-detailed example will certainly fill a hole for the collector – and a small upgrade to a solid VF will be close to triple the price. This is a good buy at just.....\$250

***A 1640 French Colonies Countermark
On a 1593-4 Papal States Douzain of Carpentras!***



12. 1640 countermark on a 1593-4 Papal States Douzain of Carpentras, issued by Clement VIII. Vlack 1-n type, host coin Berman 1528, with lions and roses in the reverse cross. Rarity-6. Host coin is an uneven Fine, a typical occurrence for these thin billon planchets, while the countermark applied on the reverse at one arm of the cross is Very Fine; it is somewhat crude and misshapen in appearance, and may be a counterfeit countermark – though to date no sort of study has been done on these to be certain of what are genuine countermarks and what are not (want a research project that will last decades? Here ya’ go!). While the Paris Mint initially handled the countermarking of old billon douzains, it is likely that most or even all of the French mints in operation in 1640 did some of the work as well, as there were an immense number of old coins that were countermarked. These issues were produced under the Edict of June, 1640, which authorized the countermark to be applied to billon issues and they were made legal tender at a value of 15 Deniers – higher than the value of the billon alloy. Breen notes that these were nicknamed “gray coin,” “French sole mark,” “sou mark” and “black dogge.” These were later made legal tender in French Canada, by Edict of November 24, 1672, but at the further inflated value of 20 Deniers. While the countermarks were supposed to be applied only to old French billon issues, it is unsurprising that a few similar-appearing billon coins of the era would be caught up and countermarked; this includes two Papal States issues (from Avignon and Carpentras), coins from Brabant in the Spanish Netherlands, billon issues from the semi-autonomous region of Dombes; there are even a couple of British silver groats that were mistakenly countermarked with the fleur-de-lys stamp. While the overall design of this Carpentras issue is similar, it clearly shows the crossed Papal keys of the Vatican on the obverse. A very scarce host coin for a 1640 countermark.....\$125

Robert Vlack lists fifteen different types of coins used as host planchets for this issue, the earliest being the 1380-1422 blanc guenars of Charles VI. A few other coinage types have since been added to that list, including the three listed as unreported (all have all been located, though all are rare). Also finally found were countermarks on Louis XIII coinage which Walter Breen listed as the major undertype, but which was completely unknown to Vlack. Several collectors are pursuing these issues not only by the major undertype, but also by date, mintmark and even variety within the various undertypes, especially those of Henry II, Henry III, Charles X and Henry IV which have a wide range of dates and mintmarks used as host coins



13. 1712-D [Lyon Mint] French Colonies Billon Thirty Deniers. Vlack-5, W-11730. Rarity-3. Fine or so, the obverse a bit weaker, the reverse a bit stronger than that grade. Full legends on either side, a few letters at the upper left obverse and lower right reverse weaker than their neighbors, but visible; the date and mintmark both strong. The L's at the central obverse a bit weak at their tops, while the reverse cross is bold. With the expected light marks from circulation, none too serious. A very inexpensive example of a popular type, which saw ample circulation in Canada as well as throughout the French Colonies of North America.....\$75

In his award-winning article "Money of the 14th Colony: Nova Scotia (1711-1783)" which appeared in the December, 2003 issue of The Colonial Newsletter, Philip Mossman notes that archaeological excavation at Louisbourg revealed a dozen examples of the 30 Deniers issue.

An Inexpensive 1721-H Nine Deniers



14. 1721-H [La Rochelle Mint] French Colonies Copper Nine Deniers. Martin 3.7-B.14. Rarity-3. Fine to Very Fine, the color in the choice category, the surfaces more of average quality. Well struck, the legends full on either side, the tops of a few letters off the planchet at the upper right obverse, the remainder mostly strong, the date and mintmark all there. Lighter brown, the surfaces with a very light roughness that isn't bad at all for this issue, and just the minor marks expected from circulation. Syd Martin's book on the French Colonies issues clears up many misconceptions about this coinage and is the first time in the nearly 300 years these coins have been around that die varieties have been published. Check out what the first group of Syd Martin's examples of this coinage brought in the 2022 C4 auction – most of the 1721-H's were in the four-figures, with one topping out at \$7,800! This renewed collector interest in this relatively small series is surely a testament to the work Syd put into researching and writing his book. Circulated examples of the copper Nine Deniers are often found dark and rough, this is pleasing for the grade, and an inexpensive example of the type.....\$250

A Wonderful Piece of John Law Silver
1720-A One-Third Ecu overstruck on a Petit Louis d'Argent



15. 1720-A [Paris Mint] Silver 1/3 Ecu, Gadoury 306. Extremely Fine, struck over an earlier Petite d'Argent— a coin that was likely struck just a few months earlier and likely never circulated before being recoinced with a new design under the direction of John Law. While the host coin is strongest in the peripheral legends of either side, where ample traces of the undertype are visible, there is also evidence in the right obverse field, which shows traces of the distinct cross design of the reverse of the host coin. Lovely deep golden-pewter toning, with some light blue and rose toning around the peripheries, no doubt a result of centuries of storage by collectors. A few trivial marks from circulation are visible, none worthy of note. The Paris Mint struck more of the Petite d'Argents in 1720 than any other mint – some 11 million of them. It struck nearly as many of the 1/3 Ecus in the same year, 1.5 million of which were struck over the earlier coinage, making the recoinced version the rarer of the two types. This massive output of silver coins explains why they struck relatively few of the copper coins during the John Law years. Collectors may not be aware that the recoinced issues were literally marked as such – the dies used to strike them have a trefoil under the obverse bust, whereas the dies used to strike coins on new planchets did not. While this date and mint is not rare, this is certainly a choice example, made even more desirable because of the overstrike. It is also a no-questions John Law issue since he was in complete control in 1720, so thus very relevant to colonial coins since the “Mississippi Bubble” was backed by land in the North American colonies. The 1720 date is always popular, and this pleasing example is just.....\$250

Michael Hodder's article "Guide to Coins of Nouvelle France" published in the 1992 *Coinage of the America's* conference symposium (entitled *Canada's Money*) traces the problem of the John Law coinages and states that "coin types specifically authorized by the crown during this period, and others for which deliveries of dies to local mints fall within these dates, may be considered to be 'John Law' coins. Modern American collectors tend to assume that a coin type struck during Law's control of the mints is automatically a 'colonial coin,' because of the association between Law and his Mississippi Scheme."

A Choice Contemporary Counterfeit 1755-A Sous Marques



16. 1755-A [Paris Mint] French Colonies Sous Marques, or Double Sol. Vlack 351. Rarity-1, a CONTEMPORARY COUNTERFEIT Issue. About Uncirculated, with just light rub on the highest points of either side, showing the base copper core over the very thin silvering – likely fully copper, and not billon as the authorized issues were. Struck on a slightly oval planchet which leaves the very tops of a few letters off at the left obverse, but all the rest of the legend, date, and mintmark bold, as are the design details. Medium pewter surfaces which are hard, with just the lightest of marks from the coins brief circulation. The Sous Marques series (called Double Sols in France) circulated extensively in the French Colonies of North America – which stretched from Canada down to New Orleans. Since a huge swath of this land was later part of the Louisiana Purchase, these and other issues made for or heavily circulated in those territories are rightly considered part of the American colonial series. The Sous Marques were struck from 1738-1764, originally by all of the 26 French mints, dwindling to just a couple mints by the time the series ended. Like every large coinage series that saw wide circulation, the real coins were soon counterfeited, with varying degrees of skill – no different from all the state coinage series or, a century earlier, the Massachusetts silver coinage. Vlack lists 15 different counterfeits from the Paris Mint (which struck, by far, the most real examples of this type) – and 6 of those are for the 1755 date, which is curious since while the date exists, it is fairly rare (Vlack lists four genuine varieties for the date, including overdates, one of which is R-4, the other three are R-7). In his work Vlack called this variety common, and noted that a hoard had been seen – but a search through the Stack's Bowers archives shows just 3 examples of this particular variety sold, so perhaps this hoard has remained together, decreasing the number of examples available to collectors today. In any case, this is an attractive, high-grade coin, made even more interesting by being a contemporary counterfeit – and one that was well made enough that it would have surely fooled people at the time.....\$150

***John Ford's Nicest 1740-T Half Sous Marques
At nearly \$200 LESS than it brought at auction in 2006!***



17. 1740-T [Nantes Mint] Half Sou Marque. Nantes Mint. Vlack-314. Rarity-2. Extremely Fine. This is the John Ford coin, sold in the Stack's sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part XIII, January 2006, lot 89. A well-struck example of this tiny denomination. Rather boldly struck, the legends, date, mintmark, and the *différents* are all sharp, as are the design details on either side. Light gray surfaces, a few trivial striations on the obverse and a couple toning spots on either side which are useful for provenance tracing (see footnote), but overall an extremely choice specimen of the variety. Vlack lists his 313 as a 1739-dated example from this same mint, which was reportedly struck, but had no examples known at the time his book was written. The Half Sous Marques are many times rarer than the Sous denomination, struck in far fewer years and not at all mints (with the later years being struck at only a couple mints). Much like the farthing denomination of British copper, the diminutive size of these pieces meant they were easier to lose and they seem to have been less popular with the public; it would have been one of the smallest-sized coins in circulation in North America, a shade smaller than the Hibernia farthing and Rosa Americana halfpennies, though a bit larger than the two and threepence Massachusetts silver issues. One of the nicest known of the variety, the Vlack coin sold in 2008 was called VF and brought just under \$375, while this exact specimen realized \$460 when sold a couple years earlier in the Ford sale. We think it a great buy today at significantly less than that! The French Colonies pieces offer great value for the price, this is just.....\$275

No lot ticket from the Ford sale accompanies the coin, and while the piece was not plated in the print catalogue for that auction, it is photographed and available on the Stack's Bowers archive site and is easily matched to this specimen, showing the exact light striations on the obverse and toning spots on either side.

***A Crowned C counterstamp on a blank copper planchet,
made to circulate in the West Indies in 1779***



18. (1779) Crowned C Stampee for the French Colonies in the West Indies. Vlack 375, countermarked on a blank copper planchet. R-2. Overall Fine. This simple design of a crowned C stamped onto older Sous Marques – or, when those ran out, on blank planchets as here – were authorized by Royal Edict in January 1763, and produced mainly at the Paris Mint (while La Rochelle produced some later issues). The original type had a deep contour around the crowned C, which likely damaged the coins it was applied to, and those are extremely rare today. This less-contoured version was introduced in 1779 and applied only to blank planchets, in both billon and copper, this being the copper version. There was little official British copper coin available to their colonies – the last regal George III halfpence and farthings of the era were issued in 1775, and not enough were produced to fill the needs of England, let alone its colonies. This led to the counterfeit British and Irish coppers of the era which circulated widely in those countries, as well as the American colonies. But the British West Indies colonies would not have seen many of them – and instead they used the French coins that were in heavy circulation on the other islands, including the sous marques. The British West Indies valued these crowned C stampees at 2 ¼ pence apiece – oddly, ¾ of a pence higher than the “black dogge” issues that were made of billon that had at least some trace of silver in them! These Stampees (a Creole corruption of the phrase *sols estampes*, which meant “marked sous) were so widely used in the West Indies that in the following decade the counterfeiters in Birmingham England produced similar pieces for circulation in their own colonies in the area – but in true Birmingham fashion, they didn’t countermark older coins but instead made dies with the design already there and struck blank planchets. They also made counterfeit dies that looked like older Sous Marques with a crowned C countermark also in the die – with one of them dated 1769, five full years after the coinage of Sous Marques had ceased! This is one of the original French countermarks, scarcer than the Birmingham-made die-struck counterfeits. There is an awful lot of history to this coinage, and yet it is available for a paltry.....\$75

One of the fun things about doing these digital price lists (that don’t have printing and postage costs that need to be factored in) is that I can illustrate and devote an entire page for a coin priced well under \$100 (and one that I will make all of \$10 profit on!) when the piece has an interesting story to tell. Needless to say, I know of no colonial dealer that would give so much detail for something like this, but isn’t it nice to read?

A sharp 1785 Miller 1-E, the first variety listed



19. 1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 1-E, W-2300. Rarity-4. Very Fine, a nice grade level for a scarce variety, and one that usually comes poorly impressed, from dies that had been severely reworked – indeed, it is thought that both the obverse and reverse dies actually started life quite different. The obverse was originally Miller 6.3 before being recut into this obverse, and the reverse was G.1, then altered to G.2 prior to its third incarnation as reverse E – two chunks of steel made five different dies and three different varieties! The excessive grinding and altering of the reverse die meant the design details of that side were even more deeply cut into the die, and thus seldom fully struck up on the finished coins. This example is certainly better than many we have seen. The legends are full on either side, the first C weaker than its neighboring letters but visible, and the E of INDE partially there, some lost to light roughness in that area; the date is mostly off the planchet, as centered, with the reverse die misaligned and showing the edge of the die at the top of this side. The planchets for 1-E are nearly always found with a light roughness to them – even Syd Martin’s amazing AU coin that was the sharpest this cataloguer has ever seen (and which hammered at a bargain price). This light roughness caused Walter Breen to theorize that the variety was wholly or partially struck on cast planchets, though if these are issues struck by the authorized mint they had the machinery to make planchets by rolling and cutting copper sheets, which would have been more efficient and much faster to do; it is more probable that the alloy was off, as most examples also show patches of deep red or mahogany color, as does the piece offered here. This surface quality has caused many slab companies to add the disclaimer “environmental damage” to such coins, including the Martin example – but that is unfair, as it was likely exactly how the coins looked when they dropped from the coinage press. A small flaw at the edge of the planchet at K-4 on the obverse was there before striking, and there are a couple small striations, but very little in the way of actual damage from circulation. A number of examples of this variety have similar edge flaws, which may have been thought to be evidence of casting ports, but were likely also a result of alloy problems. Holding out for a “perfect” example means likely never finding one – this coin has excellent detail and eye appeal, at just.....\$450

While it was known that the 1-E and a few other dies were recut since at least the 1960s, Randy Clark’s new book on Connecticut coppers shows that this practice was far more common than any of us had ever realized. The book, which won the NLG Book of the Year award for 2022, is a must-have reference!

The Rare 1785 Miller 8-D
One of just four Mailed Bust Left varieties for the year



20. 1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 8-D, W-2455. High Rarity-5. Fine in terms of strike and wear, looking more like VG due to the late die state of the obverse, and some planchet flaws at the lower reverse which obscure some detail. A problematic, inexpensive example of a rare variety. The obverse legend is mostly complete, the final letter not visible, a few other letters weak but partially there, the rest all there. The distinct mailed bust left obverse bust – used on this and the 7.1, 7.2, and very rare 7.3 dies – shows strong detail in the mailing, an indicator of the true grade, while the face is characteristically weak from the advanced die failure always seen in that area. On the reverse, much of IND and the date are lost to planchet flaws there, ET is weak but visible, LIB much sharper, and the upper half of the seated figure is sharp enough. Medium brown, the surfaces a bit dull due to light striae, a very common occurrence for the variety. This is the only variety for the year to have both mailed bust left and colons in the legend. When Crosby wrote his book in 1875 he was able to locate just a single example of the variety, and when Miller wrote his book on the series in 1920 it was given his highest rarity rating as well. More were found since, though usually in grades of Fine or lower – though there are a few exceptional ones out there, including Eric Newman's piece which Robert Martin considered Uncirculated but was slabbed as EF (and brought \$12,000 in spirited bidding, indicating some in the audience agreed with Robert's grade), Syd Martin's, ex Miller-Ryder-Boyd-Ford, which brought \$5,760 a few months ago, and Robert Martin's amazing triple struck piece over an obverse brockage which was a bargain at \$4,320. This coin will not compete with those examples of course, but it is a most respectable example of a variety that is still rare – and perfect for the collector who doesn't have mid-four figures to spend on a nicer one. The Fine/VF on our 19th price list, over a dozen years ago, sold quickly at a dollar short of a grand – at a time when there were a good dozen more solid collectors of the series than we have today; 20 years ago this exact coin would have found a home in a heartbeat at \$500, and with multiple orders too. In today's market the price is less than half that – a situation that we doubt continues for long, especially as collectors get priced out of other state coinage series like the New Jersey coppers.....\$225

The Very Rare 1786 Miller 5.2-H.1
The Neil Rothschild specimen



21. 1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.2-H.1, W-2545. Rarity-6. Fine overall, the obverse weaker than the reverse as always found. This was the Neil Rothschild specimen, and appeared in the January 2021 sale of his collection after his untimely death. It was described there as “The obverse is considerably weaker (worn out die) while the reverse would grade F15 or a bit better. Slightly glossy chocolate and olive brown with lighter brown toning on the devices. The planchet is covered with fine granularity on all but the highpoints which are nearly smooth. No verdigris, and the only contact mark is a minor rim bruise at the A in AUCTORI. Later die state with swelling and weakness on the obverse. The legends on the obverse are weak; the date and legends on the reverse are easily readable but the top of INDE is off the planchet. Weight 116.0 grains. Ex (possibly) Bowers & Merena 1/1989:25.” This type of strike is typical for the variety, usually appearing a grade weaker or with a compromise grade – here the obverse looks close to Fine, while the reverse is fully of the VF level, as can be seen in the bold branch and drapery on the seated figure. A legitimately rare variety, the majority of specimens known are in very low grade, though there are a handful of nice ones – the finest being an Unc in the ANS collection, while Syd Martin’s Choice EF, ex Dr. Hal-Brand-Taylor, is likely the next nicest known, and Ted Craige’s EF and the Ford-Tannenbaum EF after that. The Norweb-Perkins-Partrick coin was graded Fine and this example is a bit sharper on the obverse and free of the heavy contact marks on that coin; when that coin was offered in the Perkins sale in 2000 it was catalogued as much higher in the Condition Census than it actually was, and realized just shy of \$5,000 – two decades later when sold as part of Partrick’s collection it brought just a bit over \$500, certainly a roller-coaster ride in terms of value for that specimen! While most of Partrick’s coins did quite well, there were a few that sold at considerably less than he paid, usually varieties that had dropped in rarity; but the sad passing of a number of Connecticut copper collectors in the last decade has meant the supply-demand balance is a bit out of whack. And that means it is an excellent time to buy rarer varieties in solid collectible grade, while they are on something of fire sale prices – this is a situation that will not last, especially with the publication of Randy Clark’s excellent new book on the series! This coin, which we think is nicer overall than the Partrick coin, will cost you even less money.....\$300

Accompanied by the lot ticket from the Rothschild auction.

A Well-Detailed, Inexpensive Laughing Head Connecticut Copper



22. 1787 Connecticut Copper. Miller 6.1-M, W-2820. Rarity-1. Mailed Bust Left, First Laughing Head. Very Fine/Nearly Very Fine, the reverse as usual a shade weaker than the obverse on this variety. The obverse is bold with the legend full, the individual letters all sharp, and the distinct bust showing all the detail in the armor and face, the hair detail a bit flatter as that was the part that wore down first. The reverse legend and date are also full, though the letters and numbers are not as bold as on the obverse. The lower half of the seated figure is a bit weaker than the top, but is completely outlined, while the top portion shows detail in the drapery, branch, and face. Lighter brown devices with darker fields give an attractive look. The surfaces have a light roughness to them, which is something that happens very frequently on the variety, suggesting a problem with the alloy. A few light striae on either side were in the planchet prior to striking, and though the coin obviously spent time in circulation there are minimal marks. The Laughing Head is one of the major obverse bust types in the series, and always popular with collectors (and is even listed in the *Redbook* as a distinct type). A fairly plentiful variety, with some existing very choice (such as the phenomenal Gem Unc. Newman coin that brought \$36,000 when last sold in 2019), but most are in circulated grades, often with planchet flaws and other problems. Not a product of the official Connecticut Mint, the letter punches used on this and the Miller 6.2-M, may be linked to some of the New Jersey copper issues, most notably Maris 6-D, certainly a possibility that needs to be further researched. A very well-detailed example for the grade, inexpensive at just.....\$150

The Scarce 1787/8 Overdate Connecticut Copper, Miller 9-R



23. 1787/8 Connecticut Copper. Miller 9-R, W-2860. Rarity-4+. Mailed Bust Left, IND in reverse legend. Fine overall, the lower half of the obverse a bit weaker, the rest a bit stronger – important since that means the lower reverse is strong, and that is where the 1787/8 overdate is, which is quite clear on this specimen, with the errant 8 bold at the left side of the final 7. The legend is full save for one letter on either side, the first N of CONNEC gone from a pre-strike planchet flaw in that area, and the E of ET mostly gone on the reverse, the rest of the legend full and mostly strong. The upper half of the obverse bust shows good detail in the hair and face, the armor below weakly impressed. The reverse is more even, the seated figure showing detail in her dress and her distinct wispy hairdo, the branch is weaker but all there, the globe and shield particularly strong, the latter showing two of the grapevines on it, suggesting that the grade from actual wear is probably closer to VF. A very unusual variety – aside from the overdate, the obverse has two crosses before CONNEC, while the reverse has INDE abbreviated as just IND, with three ornaments after that word which would have given ample space for the final letter to have punched in. The variety seems to nearly always come weakly impressed and on flawed or rough planchet stock; this one is better than many we have seen, especially as the coin only has the one obverse flaw, with the surfaces otherwise clean. A few light marks from circulation as expected for the grade, but with very good eye appeal for the variety, and especially nice with the overdate so bold. EF appears to be the finest the variety is known in (and even the few in that grade have similar strikes and flawed planchets), while examples with this level of sharpness have often been called VF in the past, though we think it just misses that grade level. A very scarce variety, and with the overdate a naked-eye type coin as well – and one that is listed in the *Redbook* (there called 1787 over 88, which is a misnomer since the first 8 is not punched over anything, and 1787 over 8 would be correct). This overdate reverse is used on just two varieties, the one offered here and the extremely rare Miller 15-F, which means the 9-R does double duty for both type and variety collectors. Priced in the *Redbook* at \$235 in VG and \$600 in Fine, we are pleased to offer this superior example at much less money.....\$250

This example was from the Ken Mote collection, and though no longer in his distinct envelope, the provenance is noted on the envelope this is currently in.

And the other overdate Connecticut Copper, Miller 12-Q
A Bizarre 1877/1787 Overdate!



24. 1787/1877 Connecticut Copper. Miller 12-Q, W-2885. Rarity-3. Fine, many details sharper than that grade level, especially on the obverse, though the late die state and surface issues weaken other aspects, so Fine is a good grade. The obverse has most of AUCTION strong, the first letter a bit weaker than the rest due to a planchet crack in that area (which is visible at the upper reverse as well). The first and last couple letters of CONNEC are visible, the others non-existent due to a large diebreak and swelling in that area. The reverse legend is full, showing the unusual spacing of INDE with a wide gap between the first and last two letters, and the entire branch fitted into that space, giving the easiest way to attribute the variety, even if the date is not visible. Here the date is sharp and fully on the planchet, with the upper loop of the errant 8 punched over the first 7 visible. Medium brown surfaces which are very lightly rough, the obverse device a lighter color which gives a nice look to the piece. The aforementioned planchet crack was there before the coin was struck, but the planchet is free of other flaws. The variety, like the Miller 9-R, does tend to come on flawed planchet stock. Early strikes of this variety have the overdate particularly bold (the example plated in Randy Clark's book shows such a piece), but as the dies were used evidence of the overdate wore away, especially on the third digit where most traces of the errant 7 below the 8 were smoothed out. The engraver, perhaps after one pint too many at lunch, originally punched the date in as 1877 – but caught his mistake before any coins were struck. Like the 9-R reverse above, he seems to have lapped that area a bit, though not enough to completely erase the original numbers. Another naked-eye type coin, and listed as such in the *Redbook*, where Fines are priced at \$600 – but we are able to offer this piece at two-thirds less money, surely an excellent buy for the collector!.....\$200

The Second and Much Rarer FNDE Reverse Variety, Miller 32.8-aa
INDE/FUDE – the engraver thought he was making a Fugio die!



25. 1787 Connecticut Copper. Miller 32.8-aa, W-3275, the second “FNDE” reverse variety, with large obverse letters. Low Rarity-6. Fine, with the usual weaker obverse strike that occurs on all examples of the variety – the die clashed and failed early, presumably accounting for the rarity today. On the obverse AUCTION is full save the final letter, CONNEC weak but visible save for the final letter. The bust is fully outlined and with some drapery and facial detail, the hair detail more flat, typical for this die. The reverse is much stronger, the legend full, the FNDE error easily visible to the naked eye, the date about half on the planchet as centered, and with good detail for the grade including a strong branch. Medium brown, the surfaces lightly rough, but only lightly, free of post-strike scratches or other damage. The engraving error is an amazing one for the series – whoever was cutting the die thought he was working on a Fugio copper obverse, and cut FU into the die before realizing it was actually a Connecticut reverse he was working on! It doesn’t appear that the die was lapped at all to remove the two incorrect letters, and instead he punched IN over them, and continued laying out the die as usual; while both the legitimate Connecticut and Fugio coppers were minted by the same people, it was done at two different locations, but clearly those mints used the same engraver(s) for the dies for this kind of mistake to occur. While not the highest grade, this is actually a most acceptable example of a VERY RARE variety. Indeed, there are just a couple out there that grade better than VF – the nicest at auction in decades was an EF in Stack’s Bowers 2018 C4 sale which had strong detail, but was dark and a bit rough. The Choice VF Perkins specimen (also weak on the obverse from the die state) brought \$2,530 two decades ago and \$1560 when it sold in 2020 as part of the Partrick collection – the finest that a collector with unlimited resources was able to obtain. The Picker Reference collection coin was Choice VF, and the Ford coin was called Choice Fine but was VF, just weakly struck as always, and brought \$2,185. Pretty much everything else has been in notably lower grade – there were Fine’s in EAC ’75, Taylor and Lomprey, the Hessberg piece graded Good/Fine, and Norweb was called Fair/Good (though probably nicer). The first example we’ve been able to offer in several years, and a variety that is difficult to find in any condition. Rare enough that most casual collectors will not have seen one – or even know that the FNDE reverse actually paired with two different obverse dies!.....\$275

The Rare Miller 36-l.1



26. 1787 Connecticut Copper. Miller 36-l.1, W-4070. Rarity-5. Choice Fine, some obverse details closer to a full VF grade, especially in the drapery, but with the reverse characteristically weaker. That said, the peripheral details are especially sharp on either side, with the legends full, the date all on the planchet, with the first 7 just a bit weaker than the other numbers, but still all there. The obverse bust is strong, with drapery and facial detail, while the seated figure on the reverse is weak at her head, with everything else at least outlined, and decent enough detail in the branch and shield. Medium brown, the surfaces with a very light roughness to them that just softens the details a bit, but is not detracting. A few trivial marks from circulation as expected, but overall choice for the grade. A tiny planchet clip at K-1 barely touches the top of the O of CONNEC, and misses all detail on the reverse. The Miller Collection coin appeared in Stack's May 2005 sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. collection, called EF and the finest seen by the cataloguer, but was dark and scratched on the reverse, and still realized \$1,035. The Turoff coin was EF but off-center and with some planchet flaws, and later appeared in the 1998 C4 convention auction and realized an amazing \$6,500 over two decades ago. Partrick's example was EF with light flaws, from the 1998 C4 sale, and a bargain in his auction. A new addition to the Condition Census was the Robert Martin coin, a Choice EF he cherry-picked from a British seller several years before he passed away. Other than those, VF is about the best one can find, with coins in that grade in Taylor, Oechsner, Hessberg, EAC '75 (later in Stack's March, 2000 auction), while the Perkins specimen was a cleaned VF (and still brought \$1,045). In that sale Michael Hodder suggested the Condition Census for the variety ends with a Choice Fine, though there are probably enough VF's out there that the census starts with EF and ends with VF. This example was purchased several years back from the late Clem Schettino, and comes in his distinct handwritten envelope where it was priced at \$240. We offer it here at.....\$175

The Rare 1787 Miller 50-F

One of the last Connecticut copper varieties to be struck

This obverse first used with a 1788-dated reverse!



27. 1787 Connecticut Copper. Miller 50-F, CONNLC obverse error, W-4330. Low Rarity-6. Fine, always a difficult variety to grade as this was struck from a pair of dies that were both heavily failing, usually on planchet stock that was little better than scrap metal – no doubt one of the last varieties to be struck shortly before (or right at the beginning) of the Coppers Panic of 1789, and almost certainly struck after the legitimate mint had closed, using discarded dies. The AUCT mostly visible, the rest of the letters off the planchet from an off-center strike, the bases of a few letters of CONNEC can be found at the right side. Good design detail on the bust, with hair, drapery, and facial details stronger than the grade here assigned. The reverse is also off-center though to the bottom, which pushes the date and the first letter of the legend off the planchet, while the rest of the letters are mostly visible but weak. The distinct seated figure found on the “F” reverse is sharp, with a clear “wheat ear” branch in her hand that makes identification of the die easy. Darker brown, the surfaces with light planchet roughness but no real damage from circulation. This is nice, as nearly all known examples are on cruddy planchet stock. The variety is nearly impossible to find choice, and nearly as difficult to find in ANY condition – the Miller-Ford coin was called VG to Fine in the May, 2005 sale of Ford’s collection, though we thought it a VF with the usual erratic strike (apparently others in the audience agreed, as it brought \$1,955 in spirited bidding). The finest known is still likely the Roper coin, followed closely by the EF Hessberg piece, Robert Martin’s EF, the VF Taylor coin, the Miller-Ford piece and a handful of Fine’s. The variety has been notably absent from many superb offerings of Connecticut coppers, including Garrett, Norweb, Oechsner, the various Boyd-Brand-Ryder offering, Frontenac, Schenkel, the Jesse Patrick sale and all but a few of the various C4 conventions. A fascinating variety, this distinct obverse with the CONNLC instead of CONNEC error was first used on a 1788 variety, Miller 17-Q. The F reverse was never meant to be paired with a Draped Bust obverse, and was instead first used on the Mailed Bust Left type Miller 15-F – an obverse that had its own legend error, with CONNECT instead of CONNEC. This late muling of two unrelated dies was clearly done to bang out whatever planchets still remained as the Coppers Panic started to hit. Miller 50-F is a variety one cannot afford to be too picky on, and this example is better than many we have seen.....\$375

A Well-Detailed 1788 Miller 2-D



28. 1788 Connecticut Copper. Miller 2-D, W-4405. Rarity-1. Nearly Very Fine in terms of strike and wear, with some planchet issues and weakness due to centering. AUCTORI is pushed slightly off the planchet and while it is all visible, the letters are weak, whereas CONNEC is bold save for the first letter, which is lost to a planchet flaw, with other flaws above the figure's head and at the middle of his hair. The reverse is better centered, though the IN of INDE is mostly gone, the remainder of the legend visible and LIB is strong; the first digit of the date weaker than the rest, but partially there. Decent design detail on the reverse figure, the globe, shield, and branch all bold. Medium brown, the planchet flaws on the reverse mostly hidden in the hair, the reverse free of them, though with a light roughness to the surfaces. A glass shows some ancient hairlines at the left reverse, toned down and a glass is really needed to see them. A popular type, with a distinct bust style and an obverse that has five-pointed stars in the legend, while the reverse uses six-pointed stars. Not a rare variety, and one that can be found in VF-EF grades though at significantly more money (or in even higher condition, like the Unc. Ford coin that brought nearly \$20,000 when it was sold in 2005). A lot of detail, with a nice, strong date on the reverse, and a curious type coin in the series, all for just.....\$150

And a Very Sharp 1788 Miller 9-E



29. 1788 Connecticut Copper. Miller 9-E, W-4500. High Rarity-4. Very Fine, many details on either side much closer to the full EF grade level, but weakness at the front of the obverse figure's face and the reverse figure's head precludes that higher grade. Other than those two areas, quite strong, the legends full on either side, a few reverse letters a bit weaker than their neighbors but visible, the rest all bold, as is the date at the base of the reverse. The obverse bust shows extremely strong mailing and hair detail, while the reverse figure has a bold branch, globe, and the reverse shield shows two full grapevines and part of a third. Medium tan, the surfaces hard enough to the eye, though a glass shows a light roughness, and the expected light marks from circulation. There is a thin striation at the E of ET, and a couple light digs below that, though their position makes them look like striae at first glance too. Typical later die state, the obverse showing a partial incuse date and exergue line at the top of the bust's head from a heavily clashed die – this die clashing is what caused the weakness at the face. The planchet on this one actually has fewer flaws than many pieces in technically higher grade – including the Uncirculated Robert Martin coin, which was a lovely example, but on a heavily striated planchet (one wishes for a time machine to go back and pick which examples should have stayed Uncirculated – and to bring a few back on the return journey). The Hall-Brand-Bareford-Partrick coin was a much better Unc (with just a few light reverse striations), fully worth of the \$19,200 it last sold for a couple months ago (and the \$26,400 it brought a couple years earlier). The Census contains a couple AU and high-end EF's, these also usually with planchet flaws of varying severity, so a VF – even a clean and sharp one – will not make the Condition Census. But it is certainly a desirable grade for those not wanting to drop four figures on a small upgrade, and is made even nicer by the lack of planchet flaws. A good buy at just.....\$400

An Inexpensive No Coulter New Jersey Copper

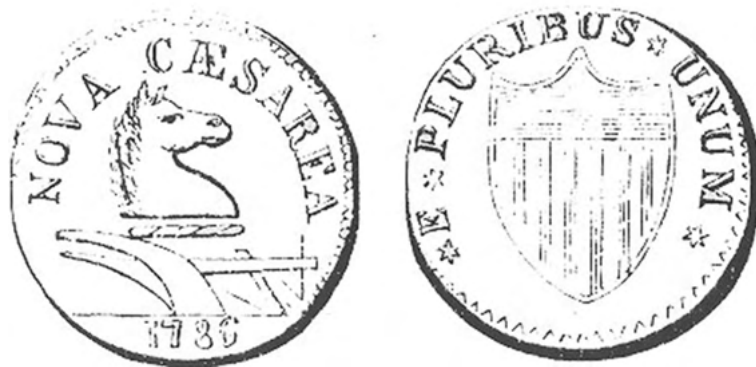


30. 1786 New Jersey Copper. Maris 12-G, a No Coulter variety, struck medal turn. Rarity-4. Very Good, a clean and evenly worn example of a very scarce type in the series – and though this is the most common of the No Coulter varieties, that means it does double duty for both diehard variety collectors as well as type collectors, making it an R-4 that shows up for sale with the infrequency of an R-5 variety. This example has NOVA CAESAREA all visible, the letters weak, and with just the tops of the dates visible at the base. The distinct shaggy-maned horse is completely outlined, showing a bit of mane and nostril detail, and the plow below is particularly strong – a bonus since it clearly shows the absence of a coulter on the plow beam, and this is the detail you want to see most clearly (or, not see, since there is no coulter there!). The reverse is similar, with the E PLURIBUS UNUM legend full, the letters mostly stronger than those on the obverse. The wide shield is fully outlined, without a trace of the lines within, as expected for the grade. Very dark fields with much lighter tan legends and devices give a very attractive look to the piece, despite its heavy wear. The surfaces have a very light roughness, and there are surprisingly few marks from circulation visible with the naked eye, though a glass reveals some ancient hairlines that have toned down to the surface color and thus easy to miss. Most collectors pursuing a No Coulter type (or this variety in particular) are often faced with just two choices – higher grade pieces at a lot of money, or lower grade coins that are rough or damaged. The Roper-Partrick coin was considered the second finest in the Siboni Condition Census and realized \$13,200 in March 2021, while the “E Pluribus Unum” coin was a Choice VF that brought \$8,400 when it was sold in November 2019. The Maris-Garrett-Tannenbaum Choice VF brought just shy of \$15,000 nearly a decade ago, when it was auctioned in January 2012 by Stack’s Bowers. Most examples grading Fine have routinely sold in four-figures, and even some VG’s have breached that \$1000 level at auction over the years. The present example is a much more affordable choice for the collector on a budget, showing all the detail needed for this distinct type, and with nice eye appeal for a well-circulated coin.....\$400

An Early State Bridle Variety for Under a Hundred Bucks!



31. 1786 New Jersey Copper. Maris 18-M, W-4890. Rarity-2. The Bridle Variety, here in an early die state. Fine or slightly better detail, the planchet less choice than the strike. That said, the coin has nice detail. The obverse legend is full, a few letters in CAESAREA weak but visible, the date mostly gone; the reverse legend is full save for the first letter. The horse's head shows detail in the eye, nostril, and mane, while the reverse shield shows most of the horizontal lines at the top and about half of the vertical ones at the bottom – this kind of detail means the coin was in VF or better grade before it was lost and spent some time underground. The surfaces have a light, uniform roughness to them, and a spot of green verdigris on either side that can be removed. While certainly a grounder, the coin escaped turning too dark, and is a decent medium brown hue. This is the rarer early die state of this obverse, without the near-vertical break connecting the horse's snout to its chest, which gave it the "Bridle" nickname. It's no secret that New Jersey coppers have been the hottest series on the market – but it is still possible to get well-detailed, if problematic coins for bargain prices. There is an awful lot of history here for well under a hundred bucks.....\$80



The Scarce Maris 38-Z, With a Very Sharp Reverse
Sold for the Clem Schettino Family



32. 1787 New Jersey Copper. Maris 38-Z, W-5175. High Rarity-4 [traditionally R-5]. A Small Head obverse variety. Very Fine detail, the reverse especially strong and evenly struck for a variety that often comes erratic at best. The legends are full on either side, the tops of a few weaker than the rest, but all visible. The date is weak at the lower half of the numerals, due to a noticeably thinner planchet there, easy to see when viewed from the edge; this thin planchet causes the anomaly at roughly K-12 to 2 on the reverse, where there simply was no metal in that area to flow into the deeper part of both dies. At first glance this looks like post-strike damage of some sort, like a blow from a hammer – but there is no evidence of any movement of metal outwards which would result from the coin being hit with any object, and this was certainly how the planchet looked before it was ever struck. Surprisingly strong for the variety, the horse with a hint of the eye, a strong nostril and much mane detail, while the reverse shield has the lines all bold. Medium tan, the obverse surfaces hard, the reverse with some light planchet flaws that are hidden in the shield and around the periphery, and were also there pre-strike. The only notable mark from circulation is an ancient scratch on the horse's neck which is toned down to the surface color and needs a glass to see. Traditionally called a Rarity-5 variety, it is probably High R-4 today, which is still quite scarce, especially for this popular series. There are a handful of truly high grade examples of the variety, including gem Unc. Maris-Garrett coin and the choice Parmalee-Ford piece, but many of the EF-AU examples have some problems, including the Syd Martin AU which had a lot of roughness at the plow on the obverse (but still brought \$2,160). The Norm Peters coin, sold by Stack's Bowers in the 2021 C4 sale had similar central detail sharpness as this and was called VF20 – though this one has stronger peripheral legends and much nicer surfaces and color. That coin brought \$600 – this example is just.....\$450

In Clem's original handwritten envelope, with his name and address stamp on the rear flap. One of just a few New Jersey coppers in his inventory when he passed away. Clem loved this series, and formed a notable collection which was sold by Stack's in March 2010

A Clean, Middle Grade “Outlined Shield” Variety



33. 1787 New Jersey Copper. Maris 48-g, W-5275. Rarity-1. No Sprig Above Plow, Outlined Shield. Very Fine, firmly in that grade, though we have certainly seen lesser pieces offered at full VF. Rather bold, the legends are full on either side, with the individual letters all sharp; the date is also full, if just a shade weaker than the legends. The horse shows some detail in the eye, nostril, and mane, the scroll below is sharp and the plow is fully outlined. The distinct reverse shield with an outline all around it is equally sharp, showing about three-quarters of both the horizontal and vertical lines within, also showing the start of the large diebreak from the upper left of the shield that extends diagonally to the lower right. Darker chocolate brown fields with lighter tan devices give a very attractive two-tone look to the coin. The surfaces are hard enough to the eye, though a glass shows light striae in the fields, the only ones visible to the eye at the base of the plow and at the tip of the horse's torso on the obverse. No unexpected marks or damage from circulation, and an attractive example of the type. A common variety, and a variety that has a Condition Census consisting solely of Unc and very choice AU examples (topped by the incredible Norweb coin which somehow turned up in England in the 1950s); Syd Martin's choice AU brought \$18,000 in August 2022 – close to double what a slabbed MS62 brought just a year earlier in an auction by the same firm, a good reminder that a number grade does not tell the whole story on a coin, one reason we do not use them and instead give photos and detailed descriptions!). Because there are enough high-grade examples out there, middle-grade examples of this variety tend to be affordable, making it ideal for the type collector. This is the variety that the *Redbook* originally had listed as “Outlined Shield,” though there are a small number of other reverse dies in the New Jersey series that has a similar outline, albeit not as strong as on this die. A perfect example for the type or variety collector, the days of getting attractive, mostly problem-free VF New Jersey coppers for under \$500 seem to be long gone – but we are happy to offer this nice coin for just.....\$375

A Strongly-Detailed Maris 54-k, the “Serpent Head” variety



34. 1787 New Jersey Copper. Maris 54-k, W-5295. Rarity-3. Serpent Head. Very Fine detail, on a planchet that has suffered some post-strike damage as well. As usual for the variety the peripheral legends are weaker than the central designs. Here the last three letters of the obverse legend are only partially visible, while the S of PLURIBUS and UN of UNUM are gone on the reverse, some of the remaining letters weak, but visible; the date is weak, but most of the last three numbers are visible, the first just partially so. This is offset by the boldness at the centers of either side – the distinct horse’s head on the obverse (which gives the variety its nickname since it does look more like a cobra poised to strike) shows a bold eye and mane, while the reverse shield has the horizontal and vertical lines within showing detail normally associated with an EF-level coin. Medium tan, the surfaces mostly hard, but which unfortunately suffered “death by a thousand blows” – or at least by a dozen or so hits on either side, none of which are too deep, but do give a waviness to the obverse, especially in the middle right field and the upper left tip of the reverse shield. Perhaps some late 18th century citizen got upset when told this piece was a counterfeit and took their frustration out on the coin – before finding someone to pass it off to in commerce. A small curved planchet clip at the right side touches none of the legend. The Siboni-Howes-Ish book does an excellent job of unpacking what is known about the variety and some of Walter Breen’s more fanciful theories that were sadly presented as fact. Struck from an early die state, with the breaks called for still light; while this obverse is assumed to have broken more, the reverse on all known specimens is in a perfect state, and one wonders why it was paired with no other obverse – though if this is a contemporary counterfeit, it may be that whoever coined it only had the one set of dies, and no die steel to make more (and to us this makes it even more likely that this was not produced by John Bailey, under contract to Walter Mould, as Bailey would have had the ability to make another obverse die when needed). Regardless of where it was made, the Serpent Head is one of the most famous and popular varieties in the series, a distinct and naked eye type coin listed in the *Redbook*, and one that has a lot of mystery still left to unravel (this writer had an article on it back on our first price list in 1987). While far from a perfect specimen of the variety, most examples (including many of the Condition Census pieces) have erratic strikes and problems of one sort. In terms of central sharpness this is on par with the near EF we offered on our FPL #21 in early 2021, a coin that sold quickly (and with multiple orders) at \$800. If you can tolerate the post-strike damage, the price on this one is significantly less.....\$175

The Rare Maris 45-e



35. 1787 New Jersey Copper. Maris 45-e, W-5245. Low Rarity-5. No Sprig Above Plow, Hypertrophic Ear. Fine, the obverse with some details closer to a full VF grade, the surfaces not justifying the full grade level. The reverse is usually found weaker than the obverse on this variety. The obverse legend is full, the letters mostly bold, while the date below is save for the first digit which is about half off the planchet as centered. The horse and plow design are fully outlined, the horse with some eye and mane detail; the horse shows the much larger ears, especially the one at the viewer's left, which gives the nickname to the variety (though "rabbit ears" may have caused fewer collectors to rush to a dictionary!). The reverse is weaker, mostly due to die state, with URI of PLURIBUS quite faint in this die state 3 coin. The rest of the legend is visible, the letters often weak. The shield is nearly all outlined, and with some finer detail showing of the lines within. Darker olive brown, the surfaces surprisingly with even roughness which suggest some time spent underground at some point in its life, though thankfully free of any appreciable marks from circulation like nicks or scratches. Maris 45-e is a variety that the average collector cannot afford to be too picky on. There is a single superb coin, the Naftzger-Siboni Choice AU, and the census then contains a single low-end EF, three Choice VFs and then dips into low-end VF to round out that list. The variety gets very expensive just a grade nicer, with the VF35 "E Pluribus Unum" coin bringing \$4,800, and the Newman-Syd Martin coin brought \$1,960 in August 2022. A minor upgrade, either in strength of detail or surface quality would cost a grand, while looking for both will jump the price into the mid-four figures and likely have you waiting many years to find one! This one is just.....\$300

A Cleanly Circulated 1788 Running Fox Variety



36. 1788 New Jersey copper. Maris 77-dd, W-5535. Rarity-2. Running Fox Variety, Die State 3 (previously known as Maris 78-dd). Very Good, a cleanly worn example of this distinct type, in the latest die state showing the double obverse die damage at the horse motif. This damage to the die causes this side to usually strike up weaker than the reverse, and that weakness plus the wear causes all but just a few letters of the legend on this side to be lost – though even without a single letter visible the variety would be easy to attribute given the distinct die damage. The horse and plow with the expected detail for the grade. The reverse is sharper, with the first two words of the legend visible, while most of UNUM is not. The shield is nearly fully outlined, and shows well over half the horizontal lines at the top and a bit of the vertical lines as well; the detail on this side is weakened by a large diebreak and failure at the left side of the shield. The strength of the reverse shield suggests a VG/F split grade would be warranted. Light olive brown, the surfaces with a very light roughness that is neither deep nor dark, and thus not that disturbing. Despite clearly spending quite a bit of time in circulation, the coin is nicely free of any major marks or damage from its usage. A distinct type in the series, and while not rare as a variety, one that seems to always be in demand. Listed as a type in the *Redbook*, where coins graded Good are priced at \$150 and full Fines at \$500, with oddly no price for a VG. This cleanly-worn coin which has the “look” that most people assume a colonial would have, is better than a Good, but offered at that price level, just.....\$150

An Affordable, Well-Detailed 1785 Ryder 2 Landscape Vermont *One of the Iconic Colonial Designs*



37. 1785 Vermont Copper. Landscape. Ryder 22, Bressett 1-A, W-2005. Rarity-3. VERMONTS. Fine, much detail on either side better than that grade level, but a coin that likely spent some time underground, and is now dark exhibits an area of porosity as a result. On the obverse, the iconic design of the Green Mountains is outlined, the trees at the center somewhat weakened, the sun strong, and the plow below sharp. VERMONTS at the left has just a few letters visible due more to surface condition than to strike, while RES PUBLICA is bold. The 785 of the date is strong, the first digit weak. On the reverse, the all-seeing eye is bold at the center (this showing VF-level detail), the rays and stars emanating from it mostly strong, with just a couple stars faint. STELLA QUARTA DE is visible in the legend, the letters ranging from weak to strong, while most of CIMA of DECIMA is lost to a pre-strike planchet flaw there. Very dark brown, the surfaces lightly rough from burial across either side, the obverse with a deeper roughness at the left side of the coin. Affordable landscape coppers have all but disappeared from the marketplace, and the ones that are offered are either extremely worn or very heavily damaged. The publication of Q. David Bowers' recent book on Vermont coppers has certainly added interest to this fascinating series – a compact 39 varieties, ranging from common to exceedingly rare and with a great diversity of design types and both authorized and counterfeit issues. The present example has much of the detail of a four-figure VF, and aside from the roughness from burial shows little evidence of post-strike damage. Given what truly nice ones bring – even in middle-grades like VF – this is a good choice for the collector on a budget who wants a detailed example of this iconic and most beautiful of state coinage designs (sorry, NJ collectors, a horse head is nice but lacks the visual oomph that this design possesses!). A coin with this detail and smooth brown surfaces would run you \$1500 or more today, so the tradeoff between color and price is significant! This is just.....\$275

And a 1786 Ryder 8 VERMONTENSIMUM Landscape Copper



38. 1786 Vermont Copper. Landscape. Ryder 8, Bressett 6-E, W-2030. Rarity-4. Fine, many details closer to VF on either side, just not enough for the higher grade level. The obverse is strong, the important VERMONTENSIMUM legend bold, as is the date. RES PUBLICA is all there, some letters faint, others strong. The Green Mountain design is sharp, with the trees all strong, but the sun's face peeking out over the right side of the range is weak, and the plow below is all visible. On the reverse, the all-seeing eye is full, with separation between the eye and lid. STELLA QUARTA is strong and complete, while most of DECIMA is weak or gone due both to strike and the presence of a few light planchet flaws which were in the blank before the coin was struck. The stars and rays are strong under the words that are strong, weak under DECIMA. Darker brown fields with lighter devices are always an attractive color combination for colonial coins. The surfaces have a light roughness to them, a combination of tiny striae and post-strike roughness, though this roughness is neither deep nor too detracting. There are few marks from actual circulation, and the overall eye appeal is nice for the grade. The Ryder 8 variety does seem to come rough and/or damaged more frequently than the other Landscape varieties save for the Ryder 3; it is also the scarcest of the three VERMONTENSIMUM varieties, as well as the most difficult of the three to find anywhere near choice condition. While not a perfect coin by any means, this is an affordable, and extremely well-detailed example of this very scarce variety.....\$475

Roy Bonjour's Ryder 10
One of just two 1786 Mailed Bust Left Varieties



39. 1786 Vermont copper. Ryder-10, W-2045. Rarity-4. Mailed Bust Left. Fine, many details in the obverse mailing arguing for a higher grade, but Fine seems appropriate, though we have seen pieces with this exact sharpness sold as full VF in the past. This is one of the Roy Bonjour coins, which appeared as Lot 6429 in the Stack's 75th Anniversary Sale of November 2010. It was plated there and described as:

1786 Vermont copper. Ryder-10, W-2045. Rarity-4. Mailed Bust Left. Fine-12. 122.6 gns. Chocolate brown of a rather attractive hue for the variety, the surfaces are peppered with the tiny planchet flaws that are found on many survivors of the variety. Well centered on both sides, the tops of AUCTORI just a bit tight to the rim, and about 75% of the date is on flan. Here is a coin that one could enjoy for decades, as did Roy. *From the Roy Bonjour Collection.*

Nothing has changed since that description was written. Collectors know that the two 1786-dated Mailed Bust Left Vermont varieties (Ryder 10 and 11) are nearly always seen on flawed planchet stock, as is the extremely rare 1787/6 variety of this type (Ryder 15). Vermont collectors are often forced to choose between coins with flawed planchets or with post-strike damage and roughness. To our eye, the pre-strike planchet flaws are far less disturbing – the coin had them before the planchet was struck, and had them when it was full mint red and just dropped from the press. The variety is often seen dark and quite rough, so the nice color and hard surfaces apart from the flaws make for an attractive example of this scarce variety and type. Very difficult to appreciably upgrade. We note that Q. David Bowers's personal specimen of the variety was fairly graded VF20, but was just marginally sharper than this, and though it didn't have many planchet flaws was both dark and rough and still brought \$2,040 in the June 2020 sale of his collection. We much prefer the choice color and better surfaces found here, especially at a quarter of the price that coin brought!.....\$475

Accompanied by the original lot ticket from the Stack's November 2010 auction where this last appeared for public sale.

An Affordable Ryder 16 in a PCGS slab



40. 1788 Vermont Copper. Ryder 16, Bressett 15-S, W-2120. Rarity-1. Bust Right. PCGS VG10, a bit undergraded in terms of wear received, with most details of the Fine level, the coin likely net graded for the lightly rough surfaces (though they are not rough enough to warrant the “details” holder). Well struck, the legends on either side are full, the letters all bold; the tiny date at the base of the reverse is nearly all on the planchet. The obverse bust shows detail in the armor and hair, while the reverse figure boasts a strong shield; as always the exact center of the reverse is weak – there was simply not enough metal on these thin planchets to fully strike up that area. Medium brown, the surfaces with the light roughness mentioned, though no real damage from circulation such as nicks or scratches, and a decent circulated example of the variety or type, with the added bonus of a straight-grade PCGS holder for those who appreciate such things. Cheap at just.....\$200



*An Inexpensive Example of the Rare Ryder 21
With a Massive Reverse Diebreak*



41. 1788 Vermont Copper. Ryder 21, Bressett 10-R, W-2155. High Rarity-4. Very Good overall, a few details stronger than that grade level, a few weaker. On the obverse, VERMON is full and mostly strong for the grade, AUCTORI mostly there, a few letters weaker than the rest; the obverse bust is fully outlined and shows detail in the mailing and face. The reverse, as usual, a bit weaker. INDE is full, the last two letters a bit weak, ETLIB about half there, and the date all on the planchet, the first two numerals weaker than the last two but mostly visible. The seated figure on the reverse is weakened by the huge diebreak that arcs through her legs, the globe and down to the exergue line – a diagnostic feature of the variety. Rated a full R-5 not that long ago, High R-4 seems to be a better rarity rating, as a handful of others have been discovered unattributed, mostly on eBay in the last decade or so. That said, the majority of specimens known for the variety are lower grade, in Fine or lower preservation, attesting to the usage this coinage received. The Stack's Bowers archives show a single EF, the Norweb coin, while a low-end VF in their August 2021 auction managed a \$2,880 bid, showing just how difficult the variety is to find anywhere near choice grade. The Ryder-Boyd-Ford-Partrick coin was graded Choice EF and a very pretty coin, and in that sale it was noted that the finest is an AU permanently off the market in the ANS collection. In his notes on his coin, Donald Patrick noted the Condition Census at the time he purchased it went from EF to Fine. Taylor's was just Fine (though later graded VF with hairlines when it was offered in the 2001 C4 auction, where it realized \$1,840); the Kessler-Spangenberg and John Carter Brown Library pieces were both Fine, the latter rough. The rarity of the issue is shown by the fact that it was missing in any grade from such notable Vermont coppers collections as Cole, Roper, Picker, Oechsner, and the Four Landmark sale of Ron Guth's collection. In his book on Vermont coppers, Tony Carlotto notes that "Ryder 21 is one of the tougher 'available' varieties. Specimens above Fine are rare." With the publication of Dave Bowers's book on Vermont coppers more attention has been paid to this compact series – and though very choice examples of varieties continue to bring very strong prices, it is still a series that one can collect on a budget, as here.....\$225

And the Equally Rare Ryder 22
Also with a Large Reverse Diebreak



42. 1788 Vermont Copper. Ryder 22, Bressett 10-Q, W-2165. High Rarity-4. Bust Right. Fine, a well-struck example of a rare variety, the legend is full on either side, the letters mostly strong, with just the CT of AUCTORI weaker than the rest, but visible, and the date is strong and fully on the planchet. The obverse bust is fully outlined, with some finer detail within, though not enough to warrant a VF grade. The reverse seated figure is weak at her legs and the globe, from both strike and the massive die break and failure in that area, a common occurrence on the variety. Medium brown fields with lighter tan devices, the surfaces with light roughness and a few marks from circulation, and the piece has good color and decent eye appeal, especially for a variety which is often dark, rough or damaged. Like the Ryder 21, this is a variety that was rated a full R-5 not that long ago, but a few lower grade specimens have been found in recent years, with the rarity rating lowered to a more appropriate High R-4. Stack's sale of May, 2007 contained the Ryder-Boyd-Ford specimen, graded AU-50, which had fantastic luster and color, but on a severely flawed planchet at the center obverse – a piece that realized \$8,625 in that sale (nearly double the \$4,887.50 it realized in the Ford sale it appeared in four years earlier, but there graded VF to EF – a little harsh, as the coin exhibited substantial detail and the choice color expected of an AU – yes, even the same coin firm can increase a grade by 20 or 30 points when it is warranted). In cataloguing the Ford coin, Michael Hodder noted that he had seen just 38 examples of the variety, most grading Fine to VF and “full VF’s being very desirable specimens.” Of note, the Ford coin was the ONLY Ryder 22 in the Hillyer Ryder collection – a telling comment as Ryder literally wrote the book on the series. There are few others that are choice – Partrick had a lovely EF (likely the reason he didn’t purchase the Ford coin at that sale), the Norweb coin was a nice VF, Matlock was a comparable VF, later on our Fifteenth Price List in 2000. The variety was missing completely from Roper, Picker, Garrett, Oechsner, Cole and Taylor – these being some of the largest collections of Vermont coppers offered; most striking was its absence from Taylor, where this was the only collectible variety that he was missing, and one he should have been able to locate. One of the most affordable examples we have seen, and a variety that is still difficult to find in any grade.....\$300

**Finishing off our Tour of Vermont Copper Diebreaks -
The very rare Ryder 29, with a Huge Obverse Diebreak, Rarity-5**



43. 1788 Vermont Copper. RR-29, Bressett 22-U, W-2220. Rarity-5. Bust Right. Very Good or so, a difficult variety to grade as the obverse has a large bisecting diebreak across the upper half which weakens detail there, while the reverse is always weak at the center on these 1788 Mailed Bust Right types. That said, this is surprisingly strong in the peripheries given the die state, especially the obverse where the legend is full, the individual letters sharp for the grade, save the last two which are visible but a tad weak due to the die state. The massive diebreak – which obviously accounts for the rarity of the variety today – extends diagonally from the rim at eleven o'clock to about three o'clock, cutting across the face of the bust, severely weakening in the face and hair of the bust. The reverse legend is full, the letters a shade less sharp than the obverse, and the date is mostly on the planchet, the numbers weak but visible. The seated figure is weak at the lower half, but the detail from the waist up is good for the grade. Medium brown, the surfaces with a very light but even roughness to them, perhaps indicative of some ground time, but if so the coin escaped without very deep roughness, nor an unattractive darker color. A pleasing budget example of a variety that is tough to find in ANY condition, and seldom offered at auction unless a major collection is being dispersed. Also a variety that gets very expensive just a grade higher: the nice VF in the November, 2001 Hinkley sale brought a healthy \$5,750 after opening on the floor at just \$300, and one slabbed as Fine 12 (but to our eyes a full VF) brought \$3,360 in Stack's Bowers August 2021 auction, while Dave Bowers's personal specimen was graded VF with a light bend and brought \$3,600 in the 2019 C4 auction. Henry Dittmer's VF brought \$20,400 less than a year ago in a Heritage sale, while the same firm offered Don Partrick's piece which was slabbed as MS61, though most in the audience disagreed with the grade, as it realized "only" \$15,275. The John J. Ford, Jr. collection broke the rules (of course), with a gorgeous Uncirculated that was the finest known example (and a true Unc), bringing \$57,500 in spirited bidding. Though a few lower grade examples have turned up in the last decade, dropping the rarity from the High R-6 it once carried, none of those have been choice, and most have had problems of one sort or another (including one with an extremely large hole). The variety was missing completely from a large number of "name" Vermont copper offerings, including Garrett, Roper, Cole and the Dr. Smith sale. One of the three rarest numbers in the "20" series (26, 28 and 29), none of which are easy to find in affordable grades. You'd have to time travel back to 1990 to get one for less than this!.....\$400

**A Cast Counterfeit 1787 Massachusetts Half Cent
Extremely Rare as a Contemporary Counterfeit!**



44. 1787 Massachusetts Half Cent. Ryder 4-C, W-5940. Rarity-2 as a genuine variety, R-7+ as a contemporary cast counterfeit as here. Nearly Very Fine, a very interesting specimen, and one that would be easy enough to overlook as a genuine example with slightly rough surfaces – at least until you looked at the coin from the edge, where it is noticeably thicker (this coin weighs 108.7 grains, a good 35-40 grains heavier than Uncirculated genuine examples of the variety, and heavier still than circulated ones). Cast from a middle-grade original, most likely while they were still to be found in circulation. The legends and date are full on either side, the reverse stronger than the obverse. The standing Indian motif shows just a hint of detail in his tunic, but the eagle on the reverse has strong feathers, and a full branch and bundle of arrows in its talons. As expected for a cast, the HALF CENT legend is not visible on the shield – it is incuse in struck originals and would have been a raised detail in the casting mold, but of such thinness that it would not have held up to molten metal being poured in. The alloy here appears to be a slightly brassy copper, with enough brass added to lower the melting point; brass was also cheaper than copper, so even at this much heavier weight, there was still some profit to be made once it reached circulation. The surfaces have the light roughness one expects from a cast from the era (and is distinctly different in look from the rough surfaces one finds on buried coins – though many of those “grounders” have been called cast over the years, few actually are). What looks like a planchet edge flaw at the lower right obverse may actually be the remnant of the casting port, which connected this design in the casting mold to an opening where the metal would be poured in, traveling down a narrow path, and then filling the mold itself. True cast counterfeits of colonial coins are surprisingly rare. As expected the two largest state coinage series – Connecticut and New Jersey coppers – have the most, and we’ve offered some on our price lists over the years. The two smallest state coinage series – the Massachusetts and Vermont coppers – have far fewer, with the Vermont series probably having more total specimens known because of the existence of the cast Ryder 5 Landscape variety. Counterfeits of Massachusetts coppers are extremely rare to begin with; we examined the contemporary struck varieties in an article in *The Colonial Newsletter*, and found that unlike the other state coinages, the counterfeit Massachusetts coppers were very near (and sometimes surpassed) full authorized weight of the genuine coins. Clearly those Bostonians were much pickier about what they would accept in commerce. We can count on one hand the number of true cast Massachusetts coppers we have seen in over 35 years of actively dealing in colonial coins! A rarity for the specialist.....\$450

Per our guarantee, this is sold as a contemporary cast counterfeit, not a genuine coin.

1787 Massachusetts Cents, SEGS certified VF20



45. 1787 Massachusetts Cent. Ryder 3-G, W-6090. Rarity-2. Very Fine, in a SEGS slab where this is graded VF-20 with the notation of reverse cuts and choice planchet, all of which we agree with. A well-struck example, the legends and date are full, the individual letters and numbers all bold. The standing Indian on the obverse shows strong facial features and perhaps half of the detail in his tunic, while the eagle on the reverse shows about three-quarters of its feathers, and much of CENT can be made out on the shield. Lovely deep tan, the surfaces hard and pleasing to the eye. The reverse has a half dozen ancient cuts, mostly in the eagle design so not as glaring as they would be in the fields, but still there, all of which have toned down to the surface color. Without those cuts this would have easily merited a Choice VF ("30") grade level at any slabbing service and priced at close to four figures. With them, the collector on a budget can get a strongly detailed coin with attractive color and surfaces for less than half that figure – not a bad tradeoff indeed.....\$375



And an Affordable 1788 Massachusetts Cent in VF



46. 1788 Massachusetts Cent. Ryder 8-C, W-6260. Rarity-3. Very Fine, a very well-struck example, the legend is full on either side, the WE of WEALTH and the finals TS of MASSACHUSETTS weaker than the rest but all there, the rest of the letters bold. The date is weak at the base of the reverse, but all visible save the bottoms of the 8s which are weaker. Good, strong detail in the Indian's tunic and the feathers on the eagle, the latter with a full, strong CENT on its shield, which is normally what you expect to find on a VF or better coin. Dark tan with mottled autumnal hues around the peripheries, quite attractive visually; though a glass shows a very faint surface roughness the piece looks hard and a bit glossy to the naked eye. Two tiny rim nicks, one above the T of WEALTH on the obverse, the other over the first S of MASSACHUSETTS on the reverse do not encroach on those letters. Ryder 8-C is one of the three or four most common of the Massachusetts cents, with a few Uncirculated examples and a number of AUs known that will satisfy the high-end side of the market, which means that a well-detailed VF does not have a premium for condition rarity, as would be the case for some other varieties. We note a weaker, lightly rough slabbed VF20 brought \$528 in Stack's Bowers October 2021 auction – even with the two rim nicks we think this one more attractive, and even more so at the price.....\$375

A CIRCULATED BOLEN 1785 CONFEDERATIO CENT

Worn to deceive contemporary collectors

One of just 30 struck in copper



47. "1785" (ca. 1863) Confederatio Cent, Small Stars. By John Adams Bolen. Musante JAB-7, Kenney-2, W-14230. Copper. Fine to Very Fine, a circulated example of a Bolen copy – not a coin that was likely actually used as currency (even during the Civil War where there was a shortage of circulating coin in some areas), but rather a piece that was carried around in a pocket for a while and worn down so that it looked like a genuine colonial-era coin. This example appeared as Lot 483 of Stack's Bowers February 2014 sale where it was plated and described as:

"1785" (1860s) Inimica Tyrannis / Confederatio Copper. Bolen Copy. Kenney-2, Bolen Dies 2-B, W-14230. Large Stars. Copper. Fine-12. 136.2 grains. Boldly defined in all areas save for the centers, the obverse portrait remains fully outlined and a few of the reverse stars are discernible. Evenly toned in deep copper brown, a few faint pin scratches over the upper obverse are the only abrasions of note. The Ford Collection offended several of these in various metallic compositions.

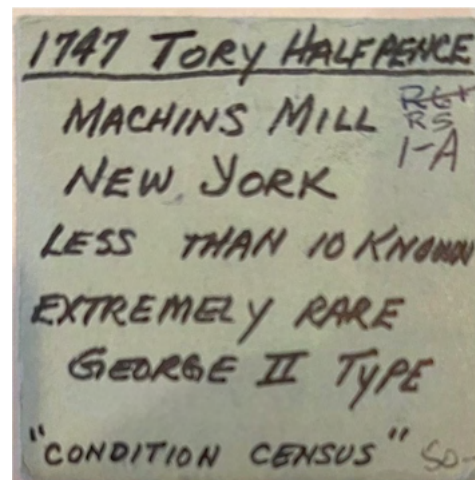
While Bolen did not set out to deceive collectors with his struck copies, it was all-but-certain that some charlatan would take one of his well-made yet charmingly faithful issues and try to pass them off as genuine. Bolen reported making only 30 in copper, and though the dies were sold to Dr. Edwards who struck a few more, they had been defaced prior to sale. This is one of the original 30 in copper that Bolen struck. A choice example of the variety, ex Ford and Anton, managed \$3,840 in November 2021 – and while a lovely piece that had been painstakingly preserved by collectors for a century and a half, we like these less-than-perfect examples that have been artificially worn. There is an extra level of chicanery involved, and one knows that 150 years ago some collector, perhaps even a serious one, was fooled by something like this in a way they never would have been by a blazing mint red example, fresh from Bolen's dies. A really cool piece, with a lot of history – and a perusal of plated 19th century auctions may find this one being offered as genuine. It's also 90% less than the Anton coin brought!.....\$375

An Off-Center, Well-Detailed 1787 Nova Eborac Copper
Sold for the Clem Schettino Family



48. 1787 Nova Eborac Copper, reverse figure facing left. W-5755. Rarity-3. Very Fine or so in terms of strike and wear received, with excellent detail in the central devices of either side, including the distinct hair design of the obverse bust and the drapery folds on the reverse figure. Struck noticeably off center towards the lower left obverse and upper left reverse, with the letters there pushed wholly or partially off the planchet; the date isn't off the planchet but is very weak, as often found on the type. Dark brown, the surfaces with a very light roughness to them, a coin that may have spent some time underground, though if so it hadn't suffered greatly as a result. The 1787 Nova Eborac issues were struck by John Bailey and Ephraim Brasher, who operated a joint minting operation in or near New York City. Like others, they hoped to win a contract to coin coppers from the New York State legislature and, like others, were denied. Undaunted, they struck a number of Nova Eborac pieces from several different dies and placed them into circulation, where they passed alongside Connecticut, Vermont and counterfeit British coppers with the same general designs. The letter punches on the Nova Eboracs match those of the legendary Brasher doubloon – and a Nova Eborac is about as close as most of us will ever get to owning that multi-million dollar rarity! Most Nova Eborac coppers are well worn, attesting to both their need and long use in circulation (though there are enough Uncirculated examples to strongly suggest some saved by collectors of the time). They also circulated widely, as two examples were found in an archaeological dig in South Carolina! The most affordable of the New York issues (which includes such rarities as the Excelsior, Standing Indian and George Clinton coppers), and always in demand. While the variety itself is not rare, in a dramatic error form it certainly is. In Clem Schettino's distinct hand-written envelope, this piece is being sold for the benefit of his family.....\$450

An Inexpensive Vlack 1-47A Machin's Mills Copper The Only George II Variety, ex Don Partrick and Alan Kessler



49. 1747 Machin's Mills Halfpenny. Vlack 1-47A, W-7660. Rarity-5. GEORGIVS III, Group II. Fine overall. Generally well struck, the GIVS of GEORGIVS weaker than the rest of the word, but all but the V is visible; the remainder of the legends on either side are strong, as is the all-important date. The face of King George II – the only Machin's Mill coinage to feature this type of portrait as all the rest are George III styles – is weak, and this is a common enough occurrence on the series, but his hair and mailing are strong and easily of the Fine level, as is most of the detail on the seated Britannia on the reverse. Medium olive tan with darker toning at the right obverse and lower reverse. Lightly rough surfaces, a hidden dent in the left obverse creating a minor waviness in the planchet, but not easily noticed and there are few other marks from circulation. A coin with a neat provenance, this is one of the Don Partrick examples, inexplicably buried in an auction containing some of his Canadian coins (Heritage June 2021, an online-only sale with no printed catalogues), where this was listed along with some counterfeit British and Irish coppers. Partrick purchased the coin in 1970 from dealer/collector Alan Kessler who today is best known for his book on 1787 Fugio coppers, but he also formed a very good collection of colonial coins which was offered by NASCA as the Kessler-Spangenberg sale in April, 1981. Kessler's original envelope is included with this coin, showing that in 1970 at least the variety was extremely rare with under 10 known, and this coin considered to be Condition Census (the \$50 price tag would have bought you a High Rarity-7 Connecticut copper variety that year too!). Annotated in Partrick's hand with the original Vlack number of 1-A, with the rarity rating changed from 6+ to 5, which today is accurate. Always popular as a type, the only George II Machin's issue, and tough to find any better than VF – indeed, the majority known seem to grade Fine or lower, usually with roughness or planchet problems. Cheap at.....\$400

Accompanied by the original Kessler envelope illustrated above, as well as the lot ticket from the Heritage sale.

***A Full Date 1787 Machin's Mills Counterfeit Halfpenny for Just \$100
Sold for the Clem Schettino Family***



50. 1787 Machin's Mills Halfpenny. Vlack 19-87C, W-7940. Rarity-2. Fine overall, the obverse appearing a bit weaker due to die failure, the reverse fully of that grade level. The legends are full on either side, a few letters just a shade weaker than their neighbors, the 1787 date bold and fully on the planchet. Struck in imitation of the British halfpenny which was the cornerstone of the colonial American economy – in both regal and counterfeit form – the Machin's Mills coinage was unappreciated as an American-made product until the second half of the 20th century, when Bob Vlack started putting together plates of the series. Eric Newman certainly realized they were something special a decade earlier when he bought several examples from the famous Stepney Hoard of (mostly) Connecticut coppers – collectors can bemoan the fact they weren't around to get an Uncirculated Machin's for under a dollar, but Eric was there and did just that. The regular British halfpenny coinage ceased in 1775, and the Machin's counterfeit issues include some regal dates, including 1747 George II, 1771, 1772, 1774, and 1775 – the presence of these regal dates meaning that a large percentage of coins called Machin's with those dates offered on eBay and other sites are really not, and are either regal or counterfeit regular British halfpence. But the Machin's coinage included dates where no regal coins were struck – and often no counterfeits either – including 1776, 1778, 1787, and 1788, the latter two years quite possibly the actual ones they were struck in. One wonders why such late dates were used, but it was probably because 1787 and 1788 would have been common dates seen on the state coinages and thus familiar to people of the time. There are also many non-regal dates known in the regular British counterfeit halfpence series, including dates in the 1780s such as 1781, 1783, 1784, and 1785 – and even as late as 1794, nearly three decades after the regal coinage ceased! In any event, a 1787-dated piece is a no-questions Machin's Mills issue. This affordable example, sold for the Clem Schettino family, is just.....\$100

A CLUB RAYS FUGIO FOR UNDER \$500!



51. 1787 Fugio Cent. Club Rays, Rounded Ends. Newman 3-D, W-6680. Rarity-2. Very Good, the peripheral obverse detail closer to Fine, the centers weaker on both sides, so VG is the correct grade. A nice example for a well-used coin, FUGIO is bold on the obverse, the date is a tad weaker but full, and MIND YOUR BUSINESS is sharp at the base. The sundial motif is mostly outlined but weak at the top and, as expected for the grade, with none of the Roman numerals visible, though the sun's face and rays above are reasonably strong. The reverse rings are full, a few slightly weaker than their neighbors but all there, but only a trace of the central legend can be seen (but this obverse only comes with one reverse, so the attribution is easy enough despite not seeing the WE ARE ONE legend). Pleasing medium brown, the obverse with some light planchet flaws in the weakly struck center – these were on the planchet prior to it being coined, and had the centers struck up more, some of the more shallow ones would have been erased by the striking pressure. No real damage or defect from actual circulation, just even wear – and quite attractive for the grade. Most VG-level Fugios may show a tad more detail but be dark, rough, damaged or otherwise problematic, and this is a nice exception. Long considered something of a transition piece between the state coinages and official national coins, PCGS has recently decided that the Fugio coppers are actually the first federal issues – resulting in a wave of new collectors who now want at least the major types (and often the die varieties as well) to go alongside their early date half and large cents. There are only two obtainable Club Ray varieties, this and the slightly scarcer Newman 4-E, and this added demand has led to the obvious – a lessening of supply and higher prices. As anyone who has watched colonials in the last few years knows, the hottest areas in the market are New Jersey and Fugio coppers; prices on each have gone up multiples, and the supply of collector-grade coins has decreased noticeably. We used to be able to have a couple dozen Fugios in stock, ranging from well-worn to AU and Uncirculated grades, now we are lucky if we can keep just a few pieces in inventory. This one will not last at just.....\$475

An Affordable Pointed Rays Fugio Copper, Newman 12-M



52. 1787 Fugio Cent. Pointed Rays. Newman 12-M, W-6800. Rarity-3. STATES UNITED reverse. Very Good, another well-circulated example, this of the Pointed Rays type. FUGIO and the date are full on the obverse, some of the letters and the last digit of the date weaker than the rest, but visible. MIND YOUR BUSINESS is sharp at the base of this side, with just the final S off the planchet as centered. The lower two-thirds of the sundial are outlined, with none of the Roman numerals visible. The top of the sundial is weak, as are the sun's rays at the viewers left, while those at the right and the sun face are strong enough for the grade. The reverse rings are full, the tops of those at the right just off the planchet due to the reverse die being slightly misaligned. Over half of WE ARE ONE and STATES UNITED can be seen at the center, though often just faintly so. The rings at the lower reverse show distinct clashmarks, with the sun's rays especially strong inside the bottommost left ring. Lighter brown, the surfaces hard despite some obverse striations that were in the planchet prior to striking and which give that side a bit of a woodgrain effect. There is a small planchet flaw near the edge of the lower right reverse, also there pre-strike. While certainly a coin that spent a lot of time in actual circulation, there are just the expected faint marks from its usage. While lower-grade Fugios often come dark and rough, a cleanly-worn coin is worthy of a slight premium for the grade. The variety certainly exists in better grades – but just a grade higher will more than triple the price (a nice Fine in Stack's Bowers April 2022 auction brought \$1,200 for instance). As noted, affordable and attractive Fugio coppers have all but disappeared from the market, though unattractive, dark, rough coins can still be had (though even those at much higher prices than they would have brought just five years ago). This pleasing circulated coin, with all the obverse legend and date visible, is just.....\$400

A Nice Non Dependens Status in Copper



53. "1778" (1860s) Non Dependens Status Copper. Robinson Copy. Kenney-6, W-15250. Copper, Choice Uncirculated, a lovely example of this piece, whose history was long shrouded in mystery. Boldly struck, everything sharp, the surfaces prooflike, with some flashes of original red in the legends, and some darker toning around parts of the periphery. In the 1850s an "original" of this design was found – though it was not a struck coin, it was a piece engraved on what was likely a regal George III British copper, using the central designs of that coin as a template and carefully engraving new legends, changing the King's bust to something that was then called that of a native warrior and, more surprisingly, the seated female Britannia figure on the reverse changed into a male Indian. The original piece was in the Winslow Howard collection, and sold in the 1862 Finotti sale by W. Elliot Woodward, where it realized \$70 – more than a Higley copper or a 1792 silver center cent in the same auction! The piece disappeared for nearly a century and was last in the collection of Byron White before being sold to Q. David Bowers, then sold in Stack's Bowers June 2020 sale of his collection where it brought \$9,000. Shortly after the discovery and publication of the engraved piece – which immediately had the name Paul Revere attached to it without any evidence whatsoever – George Hampden Lovett cut dies for Alfred S. Robinson, who made these struck copies. There were 100 copper and six silver strikes produced. These all had "COPY" on the obverse below the bust, though on some examples that word has been removed, and we have seen them artificially worn as well, in what was surely a vain attempt to make a struck copy into an original that never existed in struck form. Always popular, and though it dates from well after the colonial period, a piece that most collectors will include due to both the date it bears and the interesting history behind the piece.....\$375

The expertly written lot description of the engraved specimen in Stack's Bowers June 2020 auction, Lot 253, is well worth reading for a more detailed background on that mysterious piece.

A “1781” North American Token for well under \$100



54. "1781" (ca. 1817-1820) North American Token. W-13980, Breen 1143, copper, medal turn. Very Fine, a fairly typical grade for this interesting issue. The strike is as sharp as these come –some detail was simply not engraved into the die at all, presumably so that even freshly-struck coins appeared somewhat worn and thus “accepted” in circulation. The legends are full, as is the date, the last two letters of COMMERCE weaker but visible, the rest all strong. Light wear, as expected for the grade, with a minimum of marks from circulation; there are two small flaws near the edge above the EN of TOKEN on the obverse, which were in the planchet before it was struck. The fields are a dark chocolate brown, with the faintest roughness as usually seen on the copper pieces (this issue also comes in brass). A mysterious piece, with little actually proven about it. Walter Breen attributes them to William Mossop, Jr. in Dublin, Ireland, though without any evidence provided – possibly just on the similarity of the obverse design to the Camac Kyan and Camac Conder tokens that his father, William Mossop, Sr., had struck in the early 1790s. The ship design on the reverse is similar to some Conder tokens, as well as some Canadian tokens, including the “Ships, Colonies & Commerce” issues which of course shares the word “commerce” with this type. Regardless of where these were made, they circulated extensively in Canada, and nearly all that have been found have come from Canadian sources, not Irish or British (indeed these were in circulation at least through the 1850’s in Canada, and are documented in the literature of the time). Q. David Bower’s new *Encyclopedia* states that “all are from damaged or deliberately worn dies,” though clearly one could add “shallowly engraved and lacking in design detail” to that statement as well. In his *Encyclopedia*, Walter Breen speculates that these were struck in the 1817-1819 period, more-or-less current with some of the “1783” Washington pieces; however the “punch linkage” Breen claims, via Doug Winter, to other token issues has not held up under closer scrutiny. In 1894 Canadian collector and author P. Breton noted that these were in circulation “up to recent times,” which could mean as late as 1858, when Canadian decimal coinage arrived and drove the lightweight coppers out of circulation. Dickeson was apparently the first to record this token in the numismatic literature, in his 1859 work. Crosby, in 1875, considered it a base halfpenny, something akin to the British evasion coppers, though it certainly postdates those in manufacture. An inexpensive issue, with an awful lot of mystery!.....\$80

A Charming Late Die State 1787 Auctori Plebis Token



55. “1787” (1795) Auctori Plebis Token. W-8770. Rarity-3. Fine, the obverse a bit weaker than the reverse, at least partially due to the late state of the reverse die, which has a large break from the forehead of the seated figure to the globe. An interesting circulated example of this popular and mysterious issue – this cataloguer hopefully shed some light on the mystery in an extremely long article on this token in the first issue of *The Journal of Early American Numismatics*, tracing it in the numismatic literature in both England and America to shortly after it was struck in 1795 (not the 1787 date it bears). Always popular with American collectors because the obverse was directly modeled on a 1787-dated Connecticut copper (likely the reason for the date on the reverse of this token), and the obverse may well have been made directly from a struck Connecticut copper – more details on this in that article, which is now available for reading on the Newman Numismatic Portal free of charge. The present token is unusual in that it was quite well used, the usually found grade being high-end VF to EF (though rarely nicer). The obverse legend is full save for the EB of PLEBIS, the Connecticut-style bust weak at the center, otherwise fully outlined and with some detail in the hair. The reverse is, as always, sharper, and as the die was larger than the planchets the bottom of the date and the tops of a few letters are off the edge. The curious central detail, taken directly from a British Conder token, is stronger, and it is late state of this die, with the break from the globe to the figure’s head quite advanced (the various die states were illustrated in the JEAN article mentioned above). Light chocolate brown surfaces, a few trivial circulation marks, most noticeably on the obverse bust, and an area of darker toning at the lower right reverse rim. This is actually the most-circulated example we have seen for this 1787-dated issue, and a long look through the Stack’s Bowers and Heritage archives show none near this level – the average grade there being EF! The 2020 C4 auction had a nice run of this type from the Anton collection, including never-before seen items like a flip-over double strike and a full obverse brockage! A pleasing example, and while struck in England it is a piece that belongs in every American colonial collection, given that link with the Connecticut copper series. A “condition rarity” in this grade indeed.....\$350

Part Two of this cataloguer’s article on the Auctori Plebis tokens will look at the so-called “mules,” and will hopefully (finally) be written this year.

AN AFFORDABLE PCGS VF DETAILS MOTT TOKEN



56. "1789" Mott Token. Breen-1020, Rulau NY-612. Thick Planchet. Plain Edge. PCGS graded VF Details. From the 2018 C4 Sale by Stack's Bowers where this was Lot 6274 and ably described as:

A rather glossy example of this popular type showing chestnut and mahogany color with darker patina in the recesses. The edges are bruised in several areas, forming bold ridges above the date and the legend on the eagle side. Soft at the centers as is typical, and the cud at the left side of the clock remains relatively small compared to its girth in later stages. A few old marks show in the field left of the clock but these go largely unnoticed to the naked eye. *Provenance: From the Cohasco Collection of Colonials formed by Sir Philip H. Snyder, circa 1963-68.*

One of the more intriguing of tokens dated in the post-colonial era. It was long accepted as a token struck in or near the date it bears, but others disagreed, noting that the eagle design used here was that found on US gold coins minted after 1834 – conveniently ignoring that it was used on the Heraldic Eagle gold coins as early as 1795...and that similar depictions of an eagle with raised wings were used on signs and in newspaper drawings even earlier. The eagle image itself was notably used on the Massachusetts coppers of 1787-8, the only difference being the wings pointed down instead of up – surely not enough of a stylistic difference to claim that the Mott designs could not have possibly been made until the Hard Times era! An alleged “overstrike over a double brockage large cent” has been shown to be a “sandwich” coin, hammered between two large cents, and easily replicated. While some have spurned it as a later issue, it is still listed in the *Redbook* with the post-Confederation tokens, with commentary that it may be later. There is certainly much left to be discovered about this issue – and as more libraries and museum archives are brought online, we may soon find an answer. Until then the 1789 date means it will still be collected with colonials (much like the 1781 North American token, and most of the 1783 Washington pieces which were all struck in the early 1800s). This is an affordable, PCGS certified example, available at.....\$250

An Inexpensive Kentucky Token



57. Undated (ca. 1793-1795) Kentucky Token. W-8800. Rarity-1. Copper. Plain Edge. Very Fine, a well-detailed piece with some problems that don't change the grade – but do change the price. Well struck, the legends full on either side, save for OUR CAUSE on the obverse scroll, which wears down after about the EF level, though traces of the letters can be seen here. The “Starry Pyramid” on the reverse is mostly strong, with just one or two state's initials weak. Medium chocolate brown, the surfaces hard enough, but with several ancient gouges around the scroll on the obverse, and numerous light rim nicks around the edges; all this toned down to the surface color and not as distracting as it would have been if fresh. This type is called the Kentucky token simply because that state's initial is the one at the top of the pyramid, having been admitted as the 15th state in the Union on June 1, 1792. Tennessee was added as a state in 1796, and had this token been struck after that date it would have had 16 initials, with Tennessee at the top, so the 1793-5 date range for this being struck makes sense. Walter Breen notes “the plain-edge coins continued to circulate for some years, as they come in all grades down to GOOD, rarely mint state...(while) those with lettered edges rarely show signs of circulation,” an interesting observation which may suggest several different strikings of this series, some for collectors and not circulation, though we don't know of any research that has looked at all this closely. Nice detail for the grade, and if you can look past the post-strike damage, it is quite affordable at only.....\$150

Breen differentiates between a so-called Macclesfield standard of 29.3-30mm and the Tower standard of 28.5-29.2mm, calling the former rare. Most scholars do not put faith in these so-called standards, as the minute differences are probably due more to the technology of the era, not a desire to create different weight or diameter standards. It's been noted that the late Walter Breen loved a good story – and sometimes if one wasn't available, he simply manufactured one. This wasn't done in an attempt to deceive, but rather the author's way to add something to the story, usually something plausible, just not verifiable. Something of a cottage industry has sprung up to “debunk” Breen – a rather ironic turn of events, since Walter had always prided himself on his “bullshit filter.” While he got some things wrong, he got an awful lot right, and his contributions to the hobby are legendary. Indeed, the hobby (that is, ALL of American numismatics, not just colonials) would not be nearly as popular as it is today if Walter hadn't been around to do his research and promote it.

A 1794 Talbot, Allum & Lee Cent with Nice Color



58. 1794 Talbot, Allum & Lee Cent. With NEW YORK. Fuld-2, W-8570. Rarity-1. Large & on Reverse, Lettered Edge. Extremely Fine, a lightly circulated example of this popular type, with excellent eye appeal. Well struck for the most part, a tiny bit of weakness at the left middle of the ship's hull and the waves right below, a typical spot for weakness as it is directly opposite the deeper part of the obverse design with the bale and dress of the standing figure of commerce (this variety struck medal turn instead of coin turn). The legends are full, the individual letters all strong, as is the date at the base of the obverse. Very attractive light tan, the surfaces are hard, and with only the most trivial marks from circulation. Well-hidden above the flag flying from the highest mast is a small circular punch mark, ancient and toned-down to the surface color and exceedingly easy to miss – so easy in fact that we didn't notice it when we bought this token! Struck in England, the Talbot's come dated 1794 and 1795, with several dies for each date that speak of fairly large mintages. These were struck right in the middle of the "Conder Token Craze" in England, though their production for New York merchants prevented Dalton & Hamer from listing it with the 18th Century Provincial Tokens in their book. But, being tokens of the era, they were popular with British collectors and special pieces were made, likely for sale – for the regular issues, silver strikes are known, as are plain edges and a couple completely irrelevant edges which did appear on other Conder tokens of the era. Obverse dies for both the 1794 and 1795 dates (the side that didn't say NEW YORK) were muled with seven different Conder token dies to create rarities for collectors (though two of these mules, with dies for John Howard and Earl Howe were made in greater quantities and put into circulation in England). Despite having the same obverse dies used, the mules are not listed in the *Redbook*, just as the regular issues are not listed in Dalton & Hamer. But D&H do list all the mules, and that run also includes special things likely made for collectors as well – brass and tin strikes (oddly no silver strikes are known for the mules), plain edges, and one variety with a unique edge different from the rest. These, thankfully, are well-detailed in the Whitman *Encyclopedia*, with all but one variety illustrated and a detailed listing of the edges. In the most recent issue of *The C4 Journal* Mark Vitunic makes some interesting observations on the series, and includes a plate illustrating the die linkage of the tokens, including the one obverse not shown in the Whitman book. Always a popular issue, the 1794s usually seen with light wear, while the 1795s are more commonly seen in Uncirculated grades.....\$400

A Genuine 1795 Talbot Allum & Lee for \$75???



59. 1795 Talbot, Allum & Lee Cent. Fuld-1, W-8620. Rarity-1. Lettered Edge. Fine or slightly better in terms of strike and wear, but a coin that has been banged up a bit, and then spent some time in the ground, resulting in numerous pockmarks in the fields on either side. The obverse legend is full, the first few letters weak but there, and the standing figure showing detail closer to a full VF grade, which is likely what this token graded when lost. The reverse has more of the pockmarks, this side likely in contact with wetter soil. TALBOT ALLUM & are reasonably strong, LEE mostly gone, ONE CENT sharp at the base, and much of the small NEW YORK can be read above the ship. The ship itself is strong in the sails, the hull weaker. Dark brown, the surfaces with the aforementioned pockmarks on both sides, more so on the reverse, and with some light nicks either from circulation or imparted in the recovery process when the coin was dug up (though these nicks are toned down to the surface color and all appear contemporary to the time this would have been circulating). There is a small curved clip at the lower left obverse, which is kind of cool. Certainly not a beauty contest winning coin, but it is something rarer – an extremely affordable, genuine Talbot Allum & Lee cent! For the collector on a budget this coin has all the detail of a \$250+ piece, for a fraction of the price, just.....\$75



And a Talbot Allum & Lee / John Howard Mule



60. 1794 Talbot, Allum & Lee Cent / John Howard Mule. Fuld Mule-5, Breen 1049, Dalton & Hamer Hampshire 56, W-8720. Rarity-4. PAYABLE IN LONDON Edge. Choice Extremely Fine. A well-struck example of this variety, a lovely example of this scarce and illogical muling, pairing the obverse of a 1794-dated Talbot, Alum & Lee cent, with the obverse of a John Howard Conder token which has broken, with diebreaks in the field before Howard's face. As always found, this is weakly struck in the centers – the coiner likely reducing the striking pressure so as not to shatter the Howard die, which was clearly well-used by this point. Attractive dark tan fields, the surfaces hard and with just minimal marks, including a few small rim ticks, the only noticeable one at the lower left reverse (Talbot side). It has long been assumed that these were made for collectors of the day, and there are certainly a number of pieces that grade EF and above. But the vast majority of specimens seem to grade VF and lower, and did spend time in circulation. It is true that late-18th century British collectors did go gaga over mules such as this, and there are a couple Talbot, Alum & Lee mules that are almost always found in choice grades, such as the York Cathedral, Blofield Calvary, and Stork mules. But one wonders if contemporary collectors were as eager to add the Earl Howe and John Howard mules to their cabinets, as they were both weakly struck, from broken dies. Perhaps sales of these were slim, and the coiner just released the pieces he couldn't sell at a premium into circulation, thus accounting for the circulated specimens seen today. Regardless, these mules are avidly collected on both sides of the Atlantic – in England they are considered Conder tokens, and in the US they are considered at least tangentially part of the colonial series. There seem to be a few more of this variety in higher grades than the Earl Howe issue – perhaps because the die damage isn't as noticeable and it comes at least slightly better struck, more were sold to collectors. The nicest slabbed example was an MS63 in Heritage's March 2009 sale that sold for \$4,025, and it showed only slightly more detail than this one (though with original luster). At under 10% of that price, we think this one a great coin for the collector who doesn't want to spend four figures on one.....\$350

The Talbot mules are listed by Dalton & Hamer in their work on Conder tokens, though they do not list the original Talbot, Alum & Lee pieces as those state New York (on all but one reverse) and were clearly not made for the British market, even though they were struck in England.

*A Gorgeous Early Restrike 1796 Castorland in Copper
CUIVRE stamp over a Reeded Edge*



61. "1796" (1845-1860) Castorland Medal, or Jeton. Paris Mint Restrike. W-9155. Copper. Reeded Edge, with pointing hand and CUIVRE stamped over the reeding at 6 o'clock. **Choice Uncirculated**, a boldly struck example of this popular and enigmatic issue, with everything bold and strong. The surfaces are nice, with ample prooflike luster on the original, toned surfaces. No marks or damage worth note, and a piece that has clearly been well-cared for in the 160+ years since it was made. The edge has a thick reeding, with a tiny stamp over the reeding at the base of the piece (this is struck medal turn, so that 6 o'clock is the base of both side); the stamp must have been very carefully placed as all examples from the 1845-60 restrike that we have seen with the stamp over the reeding is in the exact same place. The most recent auction record for a comparable piece was the slabbed one in Stack's Bowers March 2020 auction, a darker and less-reflective specimen that brought \$360. This one, which would likely grade the same or higher as that piece is just.....\$275

The various original and restrikes variations of the Castorland issues are in sore need of a detailed, analytical look – and publication of whatever is found!



A Nice Washington Unity States Cent, with planchet clip



62. 1783 Washington Unity States Cent. Baker 1, Vlack 27-W, Breen 1188, Fuld WA.NC.1783.1, Musante GW-104, 10130. **Extremely Fine**, struck on the usual planchet with distinct striations in the peripheries, here mostly on the obverse, which causes some letters in the legend to be weaker, notably the tops of the NGT of WASHINGTON; the date is full and strong, save for the very bottoms of 17 which are close to a small curved planchet clip there. The reverse legend is stronger, with only the bottom of the fractional denomination weak, and ONE CENT bold at the center. The present coin has much fewer striations than normally found on this type. Washington's bust is sharp for the grade, with much drapery, face and the wreath visible in his hair. Deep medium tan, the surfaces are hard, with just a few light contact marks as expected for the grade. Quite nice for this type which is nearly unknown in Uncirculated grades. Despite its 1783 date (and the honor of being the first piece listed in the 1885 Baker work on Washingtonia), there is no way this variety could have been struck in that year, as the reverse design closely resembles the 1794 large cents, with the word UNITY substituted for UNITED – probably an effort to evade anti-counterfeiting laws, much as some of the later Hard Time Tokens issues carry a tiny “NOT” over the denomination of “ONE CENT.” A choice example for the specialist or type collector, and while we have handled a few in higher technical grades (including an AU from the Jack Collins price list a few years back), none showed significantly more detail, and most of the higher grade ones tend to have more adjustment marks or striations at the peripheries than this. The John Ford collection sold by Stack's in May, 2004 contained an “Uncirculated” example (we thought high-end AU) that realized \$1,955 and had strong striation marks, as well as a weaker EF that had lighter striations and realized \$402.50; the second piece was added to Ford's collection in 1976, as an adjunct specimen without quite as many striae as his higher grade coin. A nice example of the first issue listed in the Baker work, made more interesting by the curved planchet clip, which is a surprisingly rare error on this variety. Available for only.....\$375

Baker-2, Washington Draped Bust Cent



63. "1783" (Circa 1820) Washington Draped Bust Copper, no button on toga. **Baker-2, Vlack 13-J, W-10300. Rarity-1. Extremely Fine**, a well struck, lightly circulated example of this popular variety. As expected for the grade, everything is full in the legends, the design details sharp on either side, with just light rub on the highest points. Deep tan obverse, the reverse a darker hue of medium brown, the difference in color possibly due to storage in a coin cabinet with the reverse side up and exposed to the air, toning differently as a result. A few light handling marks as expected, including a hairline scratch on the obverse that is toned down to the surface color and not noticeable, and a tiny rim tic below the 1 in the date. The average grade for Baker 2 is around VF, with anything nicer difficult to find. Though struck decades after the 1783 date it bears, these clearly did circulate (we suspect in the 1830's when they would have easily circulated side-by-side with Hard Times Tokens), as the majority show wear to varying degrees. This issue was given an R-1 rating in the Fuld listing, and that has carried over, but we think it a bit tougher than that level; we note that Baker 2 was completely absent from Jack Collins' 1991 price list as well as Stack's sale of the "Fairfax" collection, both important offerings of Washingtonia, something not expected for an R-1 issue, especially as they were not that expensive at the time in VF or even EF grades. The coin in the late Jack Collins personal collection, sold by Stack's in April, 1996, was low grade, holed and plugged – given Jack's penchant for quality, a superior example presumably eluded him as well (and with none on his price list, as mentioned above, he apparently owned just a single example in all his years of collecting). The May, 2004 sale of the John Ford collection by Stack's listed three examples of Baker 2, though in reality there was only one that actually was a Baker 2, Lot 4, a Choice Uncirculated broadstruck coin that realized \$4,887.50. The following two lots in that sale were listed as Baker 2, but were the With Button type, and should have been catalogued as Baker 5's; collectors should correct their catalogues so as not to perpetuate the error. There are just two die varieties of the No Button type (the other much rarer).....\$350

The variety descriptions of the 1783-dated Washington coppers can be found in Robert A. Vlack's article in the July, 1978 issue of The Colonial Newsletter (issue #52). Much of the information in this article can also be found in George Fuld's monograph in the 1995 COAC conference proceedings published by the American Numismatic Society. The photographs in the original Vlack article are larger and sharper than those in the COAC reference, though both are certainly usable.

Baker-4, the Washington Military Bust type



64. "1783" (ca. 1820) Washington Military Bust Copper. Musante GW-109, Vlack 7-E (?), Baker-4, W-10190. Large Military Bust. Very Fine, a boldly struck example of the variety and type, with just even circulation. The legends are full, the individual letters sharp, as is the date. The bust of Washington shows detail in his uniform, face and hair, the epaulet on his shoulder, being the highest part of the design, is the first area to see wear. The reverse figure is less strong, with some detail in her dress, and the branch in her hand weaker than the rest, but visible. Pleasing chocolate brown, the surfaces with just the expected contact marks, nothing too unusual for the grade level. This example is apparently in a perfect state of the dies, not showing any of the cracks called for by Vlack (these descriptions reprinted in Fuld and Musante), but the leaf on Washington's laurel does not touch the I and the cap is far from the A of STATES, so it appears to best match this variety – though it appears this piece has a large rim cud at the lower right revers, which one would not expect for an early die state piece; this area is raised above the rim (easily seen when viewed from the side), so may be due to something in the striking process and not in the die itself. To be fair, few people today seem to collect these by variety and instead just want a decent example of the type. These large military bust issues seem to have circulated, as the average grade for examples seem to be in the VF-EF range, with AUs quite difficult to find and true Uncs extremely rare – not the survival pattern one would expect if these had been made for sale to collectors. The question of where and when they circulated has not been fully answered, though one could certainly see them being used during the Hard Times era in the US – though this was a good decade or more after they were made. The Washington image and the UNITED STATES legend on the reverse would mean that even if they were made in England, they likely weren't made to circulate there...the colonial series has many mysteries to solve, even two centuries or more after coins were struck!.....\$250

**A Nicely Detailed Georgivs Triumpho Token –
The only 1783-dated Washington piece struck while he was still alive**



65. 1783 Georgivs Triumpho Token. Musante GW-54, Baker-7, Breen-1184., Fuld WA.1783.1, Atkins 232, plain edge. **Rarity-3. Very Fine**, a well struck example from the LATE DIE STATE of this reverse. Rather bold on either side, the legends full, the individual letters sharp; the date strong, surprising for a later die state coin. The distinct Irish-style obverse bust shows detail in the face and hair, and the curious reverse is all there, weakened only slightly by the large diebreak running from the rim to the middle of the coin, with other collateral breaks and swelling around. Lovely deep brown field with lighter tan devices. The surfaces are hard, but do have some post-strike damage. On the obverse a crude “DI” has been scratched into the hair detail of the bust, not touching the face and thus a bit less noticeable – but cool to think one of these being used as a love token of some sort! A few digs on either side have similarly toned down to the surface color. One of the more curious issues, the obverse bust looks nothing like Washington, but by the date on this issue King George was certainly NOT triumphant, his troops having been defeated in 1781 and a peace treaty signed in Paris in 1783, the year this coin bears (and probably struck in, unlike other 1783-dated Washington coinages). The reverse is the same general motif found on American state coppers, as well as regal and counterfeit British halfpence, with the exception of a cage/screen/tapestry over her lower torso, each corner of which is anchored by a French *fleur-de-lis*, a detail that acknowledges the help of France in the American Revolution. Mike Ringo showed punch linkage to several different counterfeit 1775 British halfpence and the style of the bust and legends tie it directly to British and Irish counterfeit halfpennies and this issue actually serves as the anchor (or Head of House) for an entire family of these counterfeits now known as the GT family. This Washington issue is also listed as an evasion copper (Atkins 232), and may have circulated in England along with other evasion issues – apparently the irony of England’s loss of its colonies was not noticed by those who used these in commerce. This obverse die is also known muled with a counterfeit Danish West Indies die, a fairly recent discovery and one of the more important Washington pieces to have come out of the woodwork (just two are now known), further tying this piece to both counterfeit British and Irish halfpence and the evasion coppers series. Always popular, and a piece with more than its share of mystery left to unravel. This is an attractive looking coin in terms of color, the scratched initials reducing the price from \$500 or so to just.....\$250

A 1793/2 Washington Ship Halfpenny, Late Reverse State



66. 1793/2 Washington Ship Halfpenny. Musante GW-20, Baker-18, W-10855. Copper. Lettered Edge. Very Fine, a well-struck example of this popular issue, surprisingly so given that the reverse die is heavily buckled and failing! The legends are full on either side, the individual letters all sharp, while the 1793 date is strong at the base of the reverse – a strong glass showing traces of the underlying 2 that was first punched in. Washington’s bust is sharp, with just even wear on the high points, with strong facial and hair detail, his epaulet worn as expected at this grade. The ship on the reverse is also strong, the top center sail a bit weaker than the rest due to die failure there, the rope ladders and gunwales all showing sharp detail. The prominent die bulge at the lower right reverse found on late strikes is hair strong, and the reverse shows strong die clashing as well, with the ENT of PRESIDENT clearly visible on and around the Y of HALFPENNY, in incuse form. A prominent cud is in the in the left field before the stern of the ship, with a smaller one above and to the left. Clearly, this reverse die likely did not survive too much longer before shattering. Medium brown with slightly lighter highlights, the surfaces hard for a circulated coin. A few marks from circulation, as is typical for the grade, including a few rim tics, but nicely free of the roughness often found on the type. We have seen pieces with the same level of wear make it into EF slabs. coin is also part of the British Conder token series, where it is listed as Dalton & Hamer Middlesex 1051. This example has an edge lettering similar to other Conders of the period, reading PAYABLE IN ANGLESEY LONDON OR LIVERPOOL. There are also an extremely rare plain edge version and a brass striking of this type known. Syd Martin’s EF brought \$1,440 just a few months ago in the October 2022 auction of the first part of his Washingtonia – that one showed a bit more detail on Washington’s bust than this coin, the reverses about similar. But this one has the benefit of being over a grand less expensive!.....\$450

A VERY PLEASING WASHINGTON LIBERTY AND SECURITY PENNY –AT JUST \$500!



67. Undated (1795) Liberty and Security Penny. Musante GW-45, Baker-30, W-11050. Copper. Usual Lettered Edge. Extremely Fine, or just a hair's breadth from that grade. This is a well-struck example of this hefty coin, which was a whopping 1/3 heavier than the early date large cents! Struck in England, where this would not have been the largest coin in circulation, as Matthew Boulton's Soho "Cartwheel" pennies were heavier still – but while Washington was respected in England, the coin was clearly not meant to circulate there, especially with the reverse legend proclaiming liberty! The legends and design details sharp. Light, even wear on Washington's wig curl above his ear and the eagle's breast, the two highest points of the design. Pleasing dark chocolate brown, the surfaces are hard and with just a few light marks from its short circulation. The fields on such large coins often attract and magnify marks (think of all the bagmarked Morgan Dollars in existence!), so a circulated example without many marks is hard to find. There are a fair number of this variety known in high grades, including Uncirculated – many went into late 18th century British collections (including one to Miss Sarah Sophia Banks, which is now in the British Museum). But there are many worn pieces too (the Whitman *Encyclopedia* notes that the penny denomination "nearly always shows wear, often extensive"), and one wonders what value they circulated at – in either country! Larger than any coin in circulation in the US, yet smaller than the Soho Mint pennies (though on par with many of the penny-sized Conder tokens that were being struck at this time). The really choice pieces can bring into the high four figures – a slabbed MS66 brought over \$7,500 in Stack's Bowers March 2015 auction, and another in the same grade managed \$6,600 in their 2017 C4 auction, while Heritage had a full red one slabbed MS65 that was just shy of the \$10,000 mark in January 2021. Syd Martin's nicest, slabbed as MS64, brought \$4,560 in October 2022. Luckily for the collector on a more modest budget, there are EFs that sell for significantly less money, but show nearly all the detail of an Unc coin – and at 90-95% off of those prices! This well-detailed, pleasing example of this hefty coin is just.....\$500

The 1795 Liberty and Security Reverse Muled with an Irish Conder Token Obverse – Dates on both sides!



68. 1795 Liberty and Security Halfpenny / Irish Halfpenny Mule. Baker-31M, D&H Dublin-9, W-11020. LONDON Edge. Rarity-4. Very Fine, some details just a tad weaker than that grade, overall better than average for one of these crude mules, with the usual areas of weakness at the lower right reverse where the legend and shield are still visible, just not as sharp as the rest. The “obverse” on this is actually the reverse die of a Conder token (used on Dalton & Hamer Dublin 7-12, most of which are actually evasion coppers, struck from previously used Conder token dies – no one said this series wasn’t confusing!); this side reads IRISH HALFPENNY above a standing figure with an anchor, the date 1795 below. The “reverse” is the usual Washington Liberty & Security halfpenny reverse – an illogical muling of dies, the kind of thing often made to sell at a premium to collectors of the day, but as the average grade for these is VERY well-worn, it suggests they were instead a cobbling together of old dies to produce something for actual circulation (perhaps in Ireland itself, with the appropriate obverse and the “Liberty & Security” message of the reverse having resonance in that country up to the present day). Whatever reason they were made, they are scarce today and seldom come a whole lot nicer than this. Lighter olive brown, the surfaces with a few light marks from circulation, nothing out of the ordinary for the type. The surfaces retain a hard look despite the area of reverse weakness, free of the rough surfaces often found on this type. While not depicting Washington, the use of the same reverse die clearly ties it to the Liberty & Security series and to the larger Washingtonia field in general. None were in the John J. Ford, Jr. collection in any grade, and the Sylvester Crosby specimen in the Garrett collection was just VF (and managed to bring \$175 way back in 1981). Oddly, these are nearly unknown in full Uncirculated condition, suggesting that contemporary Conder token collectors didn’t think enough of the piece to include it in their cabinets in higher states of preservation. A surprisingly well-struck AU in the Ted Craige collection brought a bid of \$4,700 back in January 2013. A nice piece for the grade, cheap at.....\$300

These mules always come with a die break at the top of the Liberty and Security side – which is a slightly earlier state than when the reverse was paired with the usual Washington obverse found with the Birmingham edges, which means that the Washington die was used again after coining these Irish Halfpenny mules! Breen mentions this with a plain edge as well as struck in pewter, though neither has been verified according to Fuld.

**A Nice Washington North Wales Halfpenny –
A Colonial Coin and a British Evasion Copper, All in One!**



69. Undated (1795) Washington North Wales Halfpenny. Baker 34, Breen 1294, Fuld WA.1795.7, Musante GW-51, plain edge type. Rarity-4. Choice Very Fine, a nice grade level for the variety, and almost never found any better. Rather boldly struck for an issue that is almost always seen weak. The legends are full on either side, the RGE of GEORGEIVS a tad weaker at the left obverse due to the large die break there, but the letters are visible, the rest all strong. Good solid design detail for the issue, with nearly full facial features on Washington, strong design on the front of his uniform and a mostly strong harp on the reverse. There is the usual weakness on Washington's hair and epaulet and at the far left strings on the interior of the harp and the right side of the crown above it– this due to the very thin planchets used for this issue as there simply was not enough metal available to flow into the deepest parts of the dies. Medium brown, the surfaces surprisingly hard, with the only mark of note being an old scratch at the base of the reverse, which is ancient and blended into the surface color. Originally considered an evasion copper, where this was listed as Atkins-132 (and still listed as such in the Cobwright reference on evasion coppers, where it is called G.0120/N.0190). While this reverse is known only with this obverse, the reverse with two stars at each side of the harp is paired with this obverse and two different evasion copper obverses, effectively tying the entire series together. While still collected with the evasion series, the Washington obverse clearly links them to North America as well, meaning it is in demand on both sides of the Atlantic. Tough to find any sharper, the EF Norweb piece shows slightly sharper detail than this and brought \$2,300 back in 2006, while one graded AU-55 brought a jaw-dropping \$5,060 in the Stack's Bowers December, 2005 auction, a record for the variety. Strong prices for great coins, but as each only had slightly more detail visible, we prefer a Choice VF at a fraction of the cost!.....\$350

Purchased from noted (and missed) dealer Tom Rinaldo in October 1996, and in the same collection ever since.

***1800 Washington Hero of Freedom Medal, Baker 79B
Rare tinned copper, unlisted variant in Musante!***



70. 1800 Hero of Freedom Medal. Tinned Bronze. 39 mm. Musante GW-81, Baker-79B. **Very Fine**, a sharp enough medal, the reverse closer to a full EF grade. The legends are full on either side, the lettering strong. Washington's bust on the obverse shows even wear, with the original tinning worn off at the high points of his hair and the epaulet of his jacket. The obverse shows myriad light nicks and scratches, while the reverse is free of those distractions and is choice for the grade. Struck on a copper or bronze planchet that had been tinned prior to striking – similar to the gilt examples known of this variety (we had one on our FPL #22). This variant is apparently much rarer, and is UNLISTED in this metal variant in the Neil Musante work, which lists six metal variations – a seventh must now be added. The fire gilt specimens of this issue exist in both high grades, as well as worn down as low as Good (!), which were likely kept as pocket pieces, as they would have been larger than any copper coin in circulation in the US – those wouldn't have circulated as a gold piece as a quick test would have shown it to be gilt and not actual gold, nor would this one circulate as a silver dollar for the same reason. It is thus likely that the rub and marks on the obverse are from being kept as a pocket piece and not from actual time in circulation. The 1800 date puts them at the time of the Washington funeral celebrations, and the gilt and tinned versions may have been produced for sale at – or for wearing to – some of those events; the presence of silver specimens that included a holed and worn example in the Norweb sale strongly support that supposition. This type also comes overstruck on British Soho Mint cartwheel twopences, as well as in white metal and lead – though a closer examination of those last two types may reveal some are also tinned copper, as here. Regardless, this is the **ONLY** example in this metal variation that we have been able to locate at auction, and is certainly something the specialist should be excited over – especially since it is offered at only.....\$400

A GW COUNTERSTAMP ON A SPANISH-AMERICAN 1 REAL



71. Undated GW counterstamp on a regal Spanish-American 1 Real of Charles III (struck 1772-1784). Counterstamp VF, host coin Good, holed. Another fascinating piece, from the same PCAC auction as the above, where this appeared as Lot 278 and was described by the late Joe Levine as follows:

“GW COUNTERSTAMP. Baker 1036. 17.6 mm. Silver. ‘GW’ in relief within a rectangular depression c/s on an AG Spanish-American 1 real. The GW has been stamped over a prior c/s of an eagle of the federal gold reverse type of 1807. The reverse has hints of a very crude eagle c/s. Brunk has condemned all of these GW counterstamps as fantasies on the grounds that all of the GW marks which he has seen ‘show no wear to the countermark.’ To our eye, however, the mark appears to have some wear to it. We should also note that the depression into which the GW is stamped is of sufficient depth that one would not expect it to evidence much wear. From Stack’s Coin Galleries Sale of 7/14/94, #2883.”

As usual, Levine’s commentary is insightful. There are a number of obviously newer GW countermarks on various copper and silver coins which are listed in the Rulau-Fuld work, which quotes Brunk more fully than Levine’s listing; included in that group is a 1779 1 Real coin. We have handled some of the other types that were clearly made in the 1950s to 1960s, while this particular piece has a completely different look to it, not only because of the counterstamp over a previous counterstamp and the trace of wear, but also the clear wear pattern on the side opposite the counterstamp and the fact the host coin is well-worn and holed (whereas the newer GW countermarks are on higher grade coins, likely to help with the illusion that they were contemporary products). None of those known more modern GW countermarks have an earlier countermark on the host coins either. While there is no way to prove it is contemporary – or, indeed, that the GW initials stand for George Washington – this one is certainly different. It also makes more sense for someone to have copied a known countermark to produce the more modern concoctions instead of creating something completely unseen in numismatics at any time prior. A fascinating issue, one that we hope the next owner will continue to research and write up their findings for publication.....\$375

Accompanied by the original auction envelope from the June 2011 PCAC auction.

***Circa 1829 Washington Wolfe, Spies & Clark Token
A Copper Electrottype of the William Spohn Baker Example in Brass!***



72. Circa 1829 C. Wolfe, Spies & Clark token. Musante GW-119, Baker-590, Rulau-E NY 959. Copper ELECTROTYPE, as are all plain edge examples of this variety. **Choice Very Fine or so**, an electro made from a most historic example – the brass example in the William Spohn Baker collection, which was sold by Stack’s Bowers in November 2019! It is generally hard to tell what original an electrottype was made from, but this one is easily matched up, as it has the same reverse marks as that one, though here they are much softened, either as part of the electrotyping process itself, or by having an electro smoothed down a bit to hide those defects, and then another electro made from that one. No other damage that wasn’t on the original token, and a very well-made electro, with excellent copper color and no trace of lead showing through. The edge does show trace of the seam where the two halves were joined, as well as some light marks that tried to hide that seam, and the piece makes the expected heavy thud of something made of lead when tapped with another coin. The discovery of the original is interesting, as Baker’s collection was in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania since 1897, and it is unlikely that they would have allowed copies to be made of things in their collection – so it appears the electros were either produced by Baker, or by whoever owned the token prior to him. A small number of these electros seem to have been made, and some were certainly sold as originals, at least until George Fuld showed them not to be. Russell Rulau called them casts, but given the edge seam Fuld was correct and these are electrotypes. This second type of Wolfe, Spies & Clark token changes the order of names on the obverse (the Baker 118 variant is Wolfe, Clark & Spies) and also changes the word above the reverse figure – on the 118 it is JACKSON, while on the 119 it is PRESIDENT, making it likely to have been issued in 1829 when Jackson actually earned that title. The Musante book devotes a good section to this series, including a couple very rare and enigmatic mules, and is well worth reading. Other than Baker’s brass original, the only other ones we recall seeing at auction in a decade are the Ford pieces in the Stack’s Bowers 2013 ANA sale, a lovely Unc silvered brass at \$1,880 and a brass AU that brought \$1,410. While an electrottype will never be worth what an original brings, the fact this was made from Baker’s own token does add a certain panache to the piece. It is only.....\$250

Much of the Baker collection was purchased by Dwight Manley at the auction, and has been donated to the ANA Money Museum,

***The William Pitt Sentimental Magazine Token,
Issued November 1773***



73. 1773 Lord Chatham (William Pitt the Elder) Sentimental Magazine Token or Medalet. Copper. Betts-522, Warburton 90c. Choice About Uncirculated, a boldly struck example of this popular token, one that never saw much (if any) actual circulation but has just very faint rub on the highpoints of Pitt's wig. Predating the Conder token series by 14 years, these small, farthing-sized tokens or medalets were issued by *The Sentimental Magazine*, a London publication that was issued from March 1773 until December 1777. As a way to attract subscribers the new magazine (which had much competition in the market), hit on including a free medalet with each issue of the magazine, hiring the industrious John Kirk to cut the dies and presumably strike them as well. In an advertisement prior to the first issue it was stated that "With every Number will be given a Medal of some reigning Toast, some great Personage, some Hero famed in the Annals of our Kingdom, or those of the Continent, some celebrated Patriot, or some uncommon literary Genius." In all, thirteen different medalets (and a few different varieties of some) were issued, heavy on royal and aristocratic personages, most likely done to attract the attention and patronage of these moneyed peoples – though oddly including a medalet for Oliver Cromwell, who was responsible for beheading a King (though that was more than a century earlier and forgive and forget, and all that). The only medalet in the series not honoring a ruler or aristocrat was one for famed actor David Garrick, who was also honored on a number of Conder tokens, slightly later. The price of the magazine was 6d per issue (equivalent to about \$5 in today's money), and the Pitt medalets went out with the November 1773 printing. Not surprising, many of the medalets that accompanied the magazine ended up in circulation, as they are the same size as the farthing – indeed, the average grade for Sentimental Magazine pieces is around VF, so they circulated for some time. These medalets were issued in silver, silvered copper, copper, and white metal, with the more expensive silver and silvered pieces available for purchase or to be used as awards for articles or poems printed in the magazine – though none have been found used as such to date. The William Pitt (Lord Chatham) issue is the only one listed by Betts in his work on American medals, and is always popular with American collectors due to his support of the colonies during the Stamp Act crisis – many colonial specialists will include this token with their 1766 Pitt halfpenny (and if they are lucky, farthing).....\$175

A 2018 booklet on this series by Martin Warburton, with a couple supplements, gives all the known information on the series, including dates of issue for each, and a numbering system. Please contact me for information on this inexpensive booklet if you want one for your library!

A SILVER 1752 Franco-American Jeton, mule of dies listed by Betts



74. 1752 Franco-American Jeton. Compagnie des Indes Occidentales. Lecompte-112b, Betts-384/387 Mule. Silver. Reeded Edge. Choice About Uncirculated, struck medal turn. An interesting piece, this well-known variety mules the reverse of Betts-384 with the obverse of Betts-387, a piece honoring Mathurin Bellabre, the mayor of Nantes France. Struck in silver, the edge faintly reeded in areas, plain in others. Very pleasing hard surfaces, with some attractive toning, especially at the right obverse which has a nice electric blue hue. The light rub found on the highpoints are undoubtedly from storage in a coin cabinet and not the result of actual circulation. No marks or damage, and a pleasing example in all respects. While the obverse is dated 1752, this jeton may have been struck a few years later, pairing together two dies that had already been used elsewhere, but not as an official issue. The Betts 384 variety is this reverse with a similar obverse that is dated 1748 instead of 1752 as here; it is possible that the City of Nantes or Mathurin Bellabre himself may have ordered these jetons for their own use in 1752. There was a huge interest in these jetons in the 17th and 18th centuries, and they were officially issued, with designs approved by the French Academy, becoming perks of high office or nobility – and they quickly became the fashionable thing to collect (so much so that the Paris Mint still sells restrikes of some varieties today). An unusual, quasi-official mule such as this may have certainly whetted the appetite of contemporary collectors – a similar thing would happen in England a half-century later when the Conder Token craze hit, and token makers were more than happy to manufacture rarities to sell at a premium to collectors who wanted something in their cabinet that their peers did not own. This is a combination that Betts somehow missed listing, though examples exist in both silver and copper, and have been known since shortly after the book was published. The nicest was the Ford-Anton piece (a bizarre provenance to any who know those two men!), a Choice AU that sold for \$1,440 in the November 2021 C4 sale by Stack's Bowers, where it was noted that this mule is often seen with significant handling marks and seldom found choice. While the Betts 387 is still being restruck by the Paris Mint, this particular variety is not. One of the restrike 387s, struck in gold and cleaned, managed a bid of \$4,800 in the Donald Partrick collection in 2021 – nearly 20% more than an extremely choice original fetched in the same auction! This curious mule, at least tangentially related to America due to the use of two dies listed in the Betts work, has always been popular. Offered at a fraction of what the Ford-Anton specimen brought just a few years back.....\$400

A Slabbed SILVER Betts 558 – French Aid to America Jeton



75. 1777 Franco-American Jeton. Bust Right Signed DU VIV. / France Prepares to Aid America. Lecompte-205h, Betts-558. Silver. Reeded Edge, medal turn. About Uncirculated, in an NGC holder where this is graded AU Details, Surface Hairlines, which is correct, though the hairlines are fairly trivial and the result of an old wiping and not a cleaning of some sort. Boldly struck, the designs all razor sharp, the fields with the light hairlines and a couple trivial marks that do not detract. The edge is reeded. An important and popular jeton, the reverse with legend *FACEM ARMA TUENTUR* – which translates as “Arms Preserve Peace,” though of course French aid to America during the Revolution had nothing to do with preserving peace and everything to do with striking a blow against England! According to Betts, the legend in the exergue is to be read that this jeton was a special issue of the French War Department – an excellent look at French jetons and their use in society, *Old Regime France and its Jetons: Pointillist History and Numismatics*, by James McClellan III gives a fascinating look at the use of these jetons – not just on counting boards, but as perks of office, New Year’s Day gifts exchanged by the aristocracy, pieces given out at guild meetings, and even as calling cards for noble families. This particular jeton was so popular that there were several different die varieties used to strike what must have been a large number; the John Ford collection, sold by Stack’s in May 2006, contained a nice run of different die varieties, some of the choicest of which ended up in the Anton collection sold by Stack’s Bowers in November 2021. The vast majority of jetons did not go to numismatists (though there certainly were some who were collecting them as they were struck), and it is not surprising to see them worn – either from circulation or as pocket pieces – or not properly cared for at some point in the last 250 years, and choice pieces command a premium (a Choice AU piece from the Ford collection realized \$1,150 when last sold in January 2009 for instance). This one is a lot more affordable, and with the benefit of being in a slab for those who like such things. Only.....\$200

**A Fascinating 1790 Lead Splasher of a Lafayette Medal –
engraved by Benjamin DuVivier, who engraved dies for several
Comitia Americana medals
*Ex George Fuld Collection, the Fuld Plate Piece, UNIQUE!***



76. 1790 Avenger of Liberty in Two Worlds Medal, Reverse Die Splasher in White Metal, 41.3mm. Fuld LA.1790.6. Extremely Fine. This is a splasher of the reverse die for this popular Lafayette medal, made by pouring hot lead onto the page of a book or a letter, then pressing the die into it. Such splashers were routinely made before the dies were hardened, so that the engraver could check for any problems and fix anything he needed. The back of the splasher would adhere to the paper the lead was poured out on, as seen here; the text appears handwritten so it was likely a letter of some sort used to make the splasher. This medal was mentioned in the *Journal de Paris Supplement* of May 8, 1790, and was engraved by Benjamin DuVivier, who also engraved dies for several of the Comitia Americana medals. The reverse must have passed inspection by DuVivier, as there do not appear to be any changes made to the reverse die after this splasher was made. Splashers were often destroyed, but were occasionally saved by the artist, or presented as gifts. There are a couple splashers known of the reverse of the famous 1783 Libertas Americana medal, one of which was an unfinished early version of the die that had a misspelling of the word INFANS as INTANS which brought an amazing \$66,000 when last sold by Stack's Bowers in June 2022. There are more splashers known of the Libertas Americana medal than most others because Dupre was cutting those dies on behalf of Benjamin Franklin, would send him proofs of the design as he went along; the splashers of this medal are historical artifacts and it is amazing that at least four have survived. This Lafayette reverse splasher is, of course, not in the same league, but its survival is just as amazing. During the French Terror Lafayette fled, rightly fearing for his life. DuVivier, the engraver of this medal, publicly offered the dies to the infamous French executioner Sanson in place of Lafayette's head on the guillotine – it might have worked, as Lafayette lived a long and mostly happy life, whereas most of the contemporaries of his class had their heads removed from their bodies. A fascinating piece of history, the plate piece in the Fuld article on Lafayette medals, absolutely unique, all of which seems darned cheap at just.....\$500

George Fuld's work, "Medallic Memorials to Lafayette," appeared in the December 1957 issue of The Numismatist; this piece plated there, and ex George Fuld collection.

***Canadian Ships Colonies & Commerce Token, with American Flag
Struck by Wright and Bale, New York***



77. CANADA. Prince Edward Island, Canada. Ships Colonies & Commerce Token, ND (ca. 1835). Breton 997; Lees-2; Charlton PE10-2. Dies by Wright and Bale, New York. Very Fine, a decent enough circulated example of this popular token. Dark olive obverse, the reverse a more even brown color, the surfaces with light roughness as is common on the issue, though with just minimal marks from circulation. The two American Flag varieties, this and the Lees-1 which has the Wright and Bale signature of “W&B BY” at the left obverse below the line under the waves, seem to exist in much lower grades than much of the rest of the large Ships Colonies & Commerce series, and it is likely that they circulated heavily during the Hard Times period, both in the US and in Canada; the Ships Colonies & Commerce series also links directly to the Canadian Blacksmith token series. This variety and the Lees-1 are always popular with collectors in the US since it features the flag of the United States flying at the ship’s aft, instead of the Union Jack found on all the other varieties of this token – an interesting design choice, since the US had just left their colonial status behind a half century earlier, and had no colonies of their own! The Boyd-Ford example of this variety, a lovely AU brought a bit over \$750 when sold in the August 2013 Stack’s Bowers ANA sale that contained Ford’s Canadian pieces, which was the highest sale price we are aware of for the variety. Purchased at the sale by Q. David Bowers, it sold two years later at the same firm’s 2015 ANA sale, though for about one-third the price. Once considered rare, as more of the Ships Colonies pieces have been attributed it was found to be just scarce but, as mentioned, nearly always seen in well-circulated grades, and often with marks or heavy roughness, and VF is usually about the best that a collector can hope to obtain for either of the American Flag varieties. Inexpensive at.....\$75

A CHOICE SILVER 1857 WOOD'S MINSTRELS TOKEN



78. 1857 Wood's Minstrels Token, New York. Miller-NY 964. Silver. Plain Edge. Choice About Uncirculated, very light rub on the highest point of the building design, with just minimal marks in the fields – a token that may have been used a couple times as admission to the show, but was carefully saved by some collector shortly thereafter. Lovely hard surfaces with ample gloss to them, with delicate gold toning. This tiny piece, roughly the size of a US quarter, was certainly struck in the 1857-9 period, as Henry Wood's Marble Hall, depicted on the obverse, was used only in those years. Prior to 1857 Wood's Minstrels also used silver pieces as admission tickets – but instead of struck tokens, they were counterstamped silver coins, mostly Spanish-American silver two reales coins (though a few are also known on the rarer four reales denomination, as well as a pair on early US quarters – one on a 1796 (!), the other on an 1806). There are a surprising number of the countermarked silver issues known, suggesting both wide use and collector interest in saving these strange pieces. The 1857 year on the token was both the year the new theater was built and the year that all foreign coins were demonetized in the US, which meant those earlier countermarked Spanish-American silver pieces would no longer be able to circulate as actual money – with the additional benefit of free advertising for the minstrels – and it is likely that the two things happening in the same year led to these silver tokens being struck and used for admission instead. Since this token had the same intrinsic value as a quarter, one wonders why it was struck only in silver, and not just in copper where it could be sold for a quarter and used as an admission token over and over, as was the case for other admission tickets issued for other venues, both earlier and later. Regardless, collectors of the era certainly saved some of these, along with the earlier counterstamps, and they are fascinating relics of a bygone era. We note a couple AU examples bringing \$312 at auction in 2020 and 2021, while problematic cleaned or more worn specimens have brought less. This example is quite choice and is priced at just.....\$175

The Marble Hall Theater, at 561 & 563 Broadway, had seating for 2000 people. It later became the Little Singer building to house the Singer Sewing Machine Company offices and factory, and was built in a lovely Beaux-Arts style. As of this writing there are two apartments in it for sale, including the penthouse at \$10,000,000, while the 6th floor apartment is a relative bargain at just under \$7,000,000.

A Pleasing 1786 Rhode Island 20 Shillings Note “Death to Counterfeit”



79. May 1786 Rhode Island 20 Shillings or One Pound Note. Friedberg RI-298. About New, a lovely example of this early American note, one of just 12,000 originally printed for the denomination. An interesting, post-Revolution issue, though still denominated in British pounds and shillings, £100,000 was authorized and a dozen different denominations printed, from sixpence to £3, with all but the four lowest denominations carrying the ominous “Death to Counterfeit” notice on the back of the notes. Eric Newman notes that the act authorizing this issue had forced legal tender status that courts could summarily enforce without jury trial – which incensed Rhode Islanders enough that it was fought and the law declared invalid, enshrining trial by jury as a fundamental right for American citizens. As was the case with the earlier colonial and Continental currency issues, the value of these printed notes soon fell, and within three years of their issue, the notes were worth just 10% of their original face value. Newman also notes that “over 96% of the issue was burned by the State between 1793 and 1803,” which means a total survival for this denomination note by 1803 was under 500 pieces – and of course more would have been heavily worn, lost, damaged, or destroyed as worthless in the two centuries after. These notes were printed by Southwick and Barber on cream paper with a bluish tint. This is number 6173, and signed by N. Knight and Elijah Cobb in black ink (as is the serial number) and Samuel Allen in red ink, that color slightly faded, but all readable. A pleasing, high grade note, the margins clipped somewhat tight at the top, but everything is on the note, and there are no folds, chips or tears. Colonial paper has always seemed quite cheap, and with an awful lot of history! A near new note from 1786 will cost a fraction of what a coin from that same year would run.....\$175

A SELECTION OF CONTEMPORARY BRITISH AND IRISH COPPERS FROM THE CLEM SCHETTINO COLLECTION

A 1748 Ogle Eye Family Variety



80. 1748 Counterfeit British Halfpenny. Ogle Eye Family, Dies 7-48F. Very Fine, a well-struck example of this popular family, named for the bulging eye on the obverse bust – perhaps King George was ogling the American colonies he had lost a decade or so before this counterfeit was struck (though dated 1748 it was almost certainly not made until the 1780s-90s). The legends are weaker at the left on either side, the only letters completely lost being the IT of BRITAN on the reverse, but the date is bold and the legends at the right are sharp too. This weakness likely due to being struck on a thin planchet, as are most of this family, and typical for the counterfeits made late in the 18th century, as the public had gradually grown used to increasingly lighter coins over the years – and when in need, anything round and brown would circulate. An interesting family, as late as the first sale of the Ringo collection in 2008 it was thought there were only a few varieties, one dated 1738 and two or three others dated 1748, but when more research was done (after the dispersal of the Ringo collection, which contained quite a few pieces from this family) it was found to contain over 20 die varieties, including a wide variety of mules. The mules include George II obverses with dies dated 1771 and 1775 (with five different 1775 reverses known!), as well as a George III obverse with a 1748-dated reverse. The 1771 and 1775 reverse mules are from a couple different families, and are generally worn or failing dies, suggesting there was a trade in usable dies, either directly between counterfeiters or, more likely, via a middleman who supplied smaller operations with dies, planchets, and probably even coining presses – the last two of which were perfectly legal to own and easy enough to manufacture, the dies being more problematic both legally and to produce, as there were periods where die steel was hard to come by. One can imagine the Ogle Eye counterfeiter having a number of obverses and no reverse dies on hand needing some temporary or loaner dies to continue banging out his wares. From the Mike Ringo collection originally, and in Mike's original handwritten envelope indicating he bought it in England in 1993. Clem had this one priced at \$590 in his inventory, a price that was understood to be the beginning of negotiations if someone expressed an interest. Priced here at much less, just.....\$175

***A Crude British Toon Head Family Counterfeit
With Backwards S in GEORGIVS***



81. 1775 Counterfeit British Halfpenny. British Toon Head Family, Dies 1-75A, Anton-Kesse Plate 9. Extremely Fine, a bold example of this crude counterfeit, with the legends, date, and design details all sharp. The legends are crudely laid out, the S in GEORGIVS is backwards, and the N in BRITAN was originally punched in backwards but then corrected, the original diagonal crossbar of the first N still visible. Though the letters are crude, they are from punches and not hand engraved, though it is likely the Rs started out as an I punch, with the rest of the letter engraved in by hand. Wonderfully crude designs on both sides, the obverse bust with the King having a vacant, simple expression, and with a prominent double chin. His hair and the laurel leaves he wears are done in thick lines, deeply cut into the die and thus in much higher relief than his face. Those simplistic lines are mirrored in the drapery detail of the seated reverse figure and the shield by her side. Like the Connecticut copper series, the leaves on the branch were added by hand, though here none of them are actually attached to the branch and they look more like butterflies floating around it. The Toon name for the family is obvious given the cartoonish look to the bust, but an interesting aspect of this family is the use of a head and neck punch for the seated Britannia for some of the listed varieties – on this particular one the punch was not properly aligned, and her head is tilted back, almost looking like it was not connected to her body. Medium mahogany brown, a few patches of light roughness that do not detract, a couple small nicks and other circulation marks, but overall a bold example of this laughably obvious counterfeit – yet it is a variety that saw extensive circulation as there are many examples known in grades of VG-Fine, often damaged. Originally thought to be quite rare (and expensive when the first few turned up on eBay), a small number came over from England when Americans started paying crazy money for them. Still not often seen this nice, and for someone who just wants a couple counterfeits that are distinct, this is a variety worth owning. In Clem's original handwritten envelope, where he priced this at \$660 – he purchased it in 2003 from dealer John Kraljevich, prior to the dispersal of the Ringo collection, and that was the going rate at the time. Today it is a lot less money at just.....\$250

Listed as No. 9 in the 1990 Anton-Kesse work, the authors there state that the first N on the reverse is an A partially overstruck on an upside down A which, like most of the text in that book, is incorrect. However much the book got wrong factually it is still worth owning due to the wonderful photographs of some truly great coins.

**A BOLDLY DOUBLE STRUCK 1775 HALFPENNY
SECOND STRIKE 50% OFF CENTER, AND WITH TWO DATES!**



82. 1775 Counterfeit British Halfpenny. Young Head Family, Closed Gs type. Boldly Double Struck, second strike 50% off center, with two full dates. Extremely Fine, a lovely example of a major striking error. A perfectly-struck example somehow only partially dislodged from the press, with the dies coming down a second time when the planchet was only halfway out. This means the legends are not complete on either side, since the second strike was off center and obliterated the GEO of GEORGIVS and the AN of BRITAN of the original strike. However there is more than enough remaining to identify the family this piece comes from, a large group known as the Young Heads, a subset of which have “Closed Gs” in the legend, where the upper right serif of the G actually touches the bar below it (the Open G type has a space between). The Closed G lettering is mainly found on this family, though a few other varieties in other families have a similar characteristic. The date is rendered as J775, also something common to this family (and also found on regal issues), and here you have the date twice – a bonus for a double struck coin. Very pleasing medium brown, the obverse surfaces hard, the reverse with some linear planchet flaws that were there before the piece was struck (and struck again). Wear on the highpoints of either side show that double images and legends did not prevent this major striking error from actually circulating – though its oddity likely caused it to be pulled from circulation by a collector and saved. The Young Head family is thought to be one of the last major ones struck, as they are usually on very thin planchets, though from well-engraved dies. They are certainly the most commonly-seen 1775-dated counterfeit (though all the dates from 1771-1774 are also known for this family, some of them fairly rare), and whoever made them had some difficulties, as errors including multiple strikes, off-centers, brockages, heavily clashed dies and the like are known. Plucked off eBay by Clem in 2002, he had this priced at \$780 on the envelope, but we think a fairer price today to be.....\$300

In Clem's original handwritten envelope.

A Nice 1769 Irish Simian, Tall Bust Type



83. 1769 Counterfeit Irish Halfpenny. Simian Family, Tall Bust Obverse type. Choice Very Fine, likely closer to full EF in terms of wear, but struck on the usual thin planchet, from poorly detailed dies that the Simian family is known for. The legends are full on either side, the lettering especially small, which seems to amplify the size of the obverse bust and the harp on the reverse. Medium brown, the surfaces lightly rough as often found, but with just the faintest marks from circulation, and a piece with good eye appeal. The dies – like nearly all the dies for the Simian family – are completely hand-engraved: the letters, the numbers, and all the design detail too! The Simian family is the largest one known in terms of numbers of dies, and it crosses over into nearly every type. There are Simian British dies of William III, George II and George III, there are Simian Irish dies of George II and George III, and there are Simian British farthing dies of George II and George III, with many mules between rulers and even between countries. The only 18th century copper type not (yet) known in Simian format are Irish farthings, which were rare enough as regal coins to likely not have been seen in circulation by the time the Simians were struck, late in the 1790s. The lettering on the Simian dies indicates that most, if not all, were cut by the same hand – suggesting that the engraver did not actually strike counterfeits but sold the dies to others to coin (this cataloguer wrote an article for *The Colonial Newsletter* detailing this, based on a small hoard found in the walls of an Edinburgh home). This theory is supported by the fact that even though there are many hundreds of individual dies there is very little actual die pairing – most dies come paired with just one or two other dies. This particular Tall Bust type comes with the 1769 reverse here, as well as a 1781-dated one. Originally called the “Spidery Letters” family due to the thin, wispy lettering, the Simian name was due to the British issues which often had a very long arm on the seated Britannia figure. While the Irish types do not have that, they do at least look like they could have been engraved by a monkey, so the name still fits. The Simians are another no-brainer type for someone wishing to own just a couple counterfeits that are obvious, and there is no way that these could ever be mistaken for regal issues – either at the time they were made, or today, two and a quarter centuries later. In Clem’s original handwritten envelope, priced at \$500, and likely worth that at the time of the 2008 Ringo sale (which is still the high-water mark for the counterfeit series), but enough Simians have come over from England that today’s price is less than half, just.....\$200

84. 1782 Counterfeit Irish Halfpenny. Boldly Double Struck, Two Dates. Extremely Fine, a lovely example of a major error, the double strike not as far off as the 1775 British offered earlier, but caused for the same reason, the original struck coin not fully ejecting from the press before the dies came down again. This double strike, about 15% off center and with the planchet slightly rotated between strikes, gives a trippy look to the coin, almost like looking at a 3-D movie without your special glasses on, the obverse bust with a weirdly elongated eye socket where the two strikes align. There are two dates on the reverse, always a bonus on a double-struck coin, the original one with the first three digits about half off the planchet as centered, the second directly above and shifted slightly to the right, some of the numerals hidden within the harp design. Medium brown, the surfaces hard for the most part, with just the faintest of marks from actual use. Another oddity that was likely pulled from circulation by some late 18th century collector and preserved in nice grade. Errors on Irish pieces are much rarer than those on British counterfeits due, of course, to the fact that there were many more British issues struck than Irish ones. The sheer number of counterfeits that have been saved – through eras where copper got expensive, or in times of war when worthless pieces would have been melted down – tells us that there were people who had an interest in them and saved them from literally the time they were being made. It's a bit of modern vanity to think that collectors only cared about pretty coins and were repulsed by counterfeits such as this. There likely were coin snobs then, but there were just as likely people who were intrigued by such pieces, fortunately so for those of us collecting them today! The Irish counterfeits have been less studied than the British ones, with just a couple types mentioned in the first volume on the series issued through C4 – though it is hoped more will be included in the second volume which is currently being worked on by a number of authors, including this one. Purchased by Clem in 2002 from dealer Tony Terranova, and priced by him at \$675 on his original handwritten envelope. Offered here at significantly less money, this is a piece that would attract attention in any collection!.....\$300

An Early Die State Laughing Head Simian Farthing



85. 1773 Counterfeit British Farthing. Simian Family, Anton-Kesse 90 type, the “Laughing Head” variety. Very Fine, some details closer to an EF grade, others weaker as struck. This is the popular Laughing Head variety – hey, Connecticut coppers can’t be the only mirthful coins out there! The dies, like most Simians, are completely hand-engraved, and one can see the similarities in letters between this and the Irish Simian offered earlier; this shows the long pole arm on the reverse figure (with an apparent lack of elbow joint, something also commonly seen on the British style reverses in this family), and a very short branch arm. Full legends and date, the latter with a complete row of denticles below. Medium brown, the planchet with some flaws at the center obverse that were there prior to striking, as well as a touch of light roughness elsewhere. A small planchet clip at the upper right obverse/lower right reverse touches none of the legend or design. The Simians are always charmingly crude, and this nicknamed variety is no different. It is also a variety that offers an array of striking errors – this writer did an article on them for a recent issue of *The C4 Newsletter*, and should have probably included a clipped planchet piece like this in that account. As noted in that article, both the obverse and reverse dies of this variety broke early, the obverse here showing in the much rarer early die state, showing just light swelling under the GE of GEORGIVS, and the reverse in a perfect state, before the kidney-shaped die swelling appears in the left field. Oddly, despite both dies failing early, they held together, and this is probably the most common Simian farthing variety out there (like the Irish offered above the dies were used in a very limited pairing – the obverse only with this reverse, and the reverse used with just one other obverse for a very small coinage in its latest die state). The first volume of the counterfeit book series published through C4 contained plates for the George II Simian family, and it is expected that the second volume will contain the Simian farthing issues, of both George II and George III. Another naked-eye counterfeit, especially charming due to the crudeness of the designs. In Clem’s original handwritten envelope, priced there at just \$245, an indication that even when he bought the coin in 2008 he knew the variety was interesting but not rare. Priced here at even less.....\$125

The Anton-Kesse book calls this “likely of American manufacture” in the mistaken belief that anything crude must have been American made and ignoring the fact that there were bad engravers everywhere. The issue is undoubtedly of British manufacture and though the majority of the variety may now be in American collections, nearly all of them came from UK sources within the last couple decades

And a Cool High Grade Evasion Copper from Clem's Collection



86. Undated [circa 1796] British Evasion Copper. Cobwright C.0190/H.0160, Atkins 59. Extremely Fine, a sharp example of this mysterious issue, with the legends full on either side, just the tops of a few obverse letters off due to centering of that die. Medium brown, the surfaces hard, though a glass will pick up a few trivial marks from circulation, including a couple obverse hairlines in the field that have toned down to the surface color and not disturbing. This variety has been included as part of the large evasion copper series from literally the time they were struck – the amazing Miss Banks bought her example in late 1796, and included it with all her other evasions (which she charmingly called “Medley Halfpence”), making it both one of the earlier evasion acquisitions in her collection and the earliest provenance known for this particular variety. It was not listed by Conder in his book on tokens which came out in 1798, though Conder did list quite a number of evasion coppers in his text. It was listed by Batty, then by Atkins, though not by Lyman Low in his two earlier lists that the Atkins text was based upon. This variety is unusual for the evasion series as the reverse die does not show a seated Britannia figure or Irish-style harp, and instead an clover leaf grouping of four shields. One would think the use of a Catholic papal image and legend would be unusual for a coin struck in Anglican England, but there are several instances of this in the evasion series – though this one is a pope that didn't exist, as the Clement name was used only up to Clement XIV (though, interestingly, it was reported that in 1960 the Virgin of Fatima appeared in a vision to a French bishop, declaring that the next pope would indeed be Clement XV. A defrocked priest actually took that name and attempted to start a “Renewed Church,” with himself installed as pope. Who knew, evasion coppers predicted the future!). Neither the obverse nor reverse die is used in any other combination which is unusual for the series, but far from unprecedented, nor is the use of Latinesque legends. A most mysterious issue, one that has certainly been grandfathered into the evasion series, and seemingly that is the best fit for it, as Miss Banks's example shows that they were in circulation at the same time as the evasions. This may be one of the few varieties not struck by William Lutwyche in Birmingham, which makes it even more interesting. A most pleasing example, and darned cheap for a high-grade token with this much mystery!.....\$75

The evasion copper series is fascinating, and this writer both collects them and has written on them, including a lengthy article in the Journal of Early American Numismatics. I am also the US distributor for the Cobwright book on evasion coppers, which is the best reference published so far and the only real way to attribute them – email me if you need the book.

ORDERING INFORMATION:

- All prices include postage and insurance
- Payment can be made by check or money order or through PayPal at no additional charge, if sent via "Friends and Family" from your PayPal account. Other forms of PayPal or credit card payments are also acceptable but are subject to a 3% surcharge to cover some of the fees involved
- California residents must add 7.75% sales tax to any purchase under \$1,000 (or provide a valid resale number when ordering). In-state orders over \$1,000 are not subject to California sales tax
- All items guaranteed genuine (except for those explicitly described as otherwise, including struck copies, electrotypes, casts, and the like)
- All items come with a no questions asked 14-day return period after you receive them
- We are happy to e-mail photographs of any pieces in a larger size which can be enlarged on your computer screen for enhanced viewing
- We are happy to discuss layaway plans, with no interest charges added
- All coins are stored in bank vaults, and we maintain no over the counter facilities
- Your satisfaction is the most important part of our business

To place an order:

- **e-mail us at:** rosaamltd@gmail.com
- **call us at:** (619) 929-7926 (but please note we are on Pacific Time and leave a message if we cannot answer; messages will be returned in the order they are received)
- **write us at:** P.O. Box 3447, San Diego, California 92163

